

## Chicago Police Department Opening Statement

Thank you, Chairman Dowell, Vice Chairman Silverstein and members of the City Council, for inviting me and my Command Staff to speak on the Chicago Police Department's proposed 2020 budget.

This is my third budget hearing as Superintendent. I want to begin by thanking everyone here and the people of Chicago for trusting me with this tremendous responsibility.

It's difficult to describe what's required of the job of Superintendent until you have it.

Every decision is questioned. Every decision has consequences.

It's a stressful job, but it helps to remember the good people living on every block and within every neighborhood in Chicago.

I think of the smiling faces I see while at community policing events.

It's always a good day when I get to go out and flip burgers or play softball with neighborhood kids and the beat cops that patrol their neighborhoods.

That's what Chicago is all about.

My history also plays a major factor in my motivation to keep this city safe. I'm a Chicago guy — through and through.

I've never forgotten my roots, which were planted in Cabrini Green and later transplanted to Washington Heights on the South Side.

The streets where I oversee patrols, missions and community engagement events are the same streets where I walked to high school.

They are the same streets where I visit friends and family. Chicago's neighborhoods are where I raised my family. This is where I've planted my flag.

It's with that in mind that I've woken up each morning since being appointed Superintendent in April 2016 by thinking about how to best keep Chicago safe.

I'm proud to say that the Chicago Police Department is on track to continue its three-year pattern of violence reduction this year.

Chicago police have also recovered more than 9,300 guns already in 2019, up 18 percent versus last year.

Gun arrests are up 12 percent, and we anticipate taking more than 10,000 guns off the streets by January 1.

Violence is also trending down again this year. Murders are down 11 percent year to date, compared to the same year-to-date period last year.

Shooting incidents are also down 10 percent this year for the same period. If this trend continues, it will mark the fourth straight year of continued double-digit declines in shootings and murders.

Robberies and burglaries are also on pace to post double digit reductions this year. In fact, robberies, burglaries and motor vehicle thefts are at 20-year lows.

Now I'm not here to spike the ball or declare victory. Chicago still has a long way to go to become the safest big city in America.

I'm simply asking that our 2020 budget helps us continue to invest in strategies that have proven successful.

We also have several new initiatives that we believe will help maintain our momentum.

First, let's talk about what is working. In my tenure as Superintendent, we have invested in manpower and technology.

I also made it a priority to reinvent the Office of Community Policing.

I'm proud to say CPD now has 13,300 officers, and 18 percent of these officers have gone through the Academy within the last three years.

We've worked hard to recruit diversity too. I want CPD to reflect the same unique demographics that exist in the neighborhoods we are sworn to serve and protect.

With so many new officers, it was important that we get it right when it comes to training. So, we revised our curriculum to include lessons in procedural justice, implicit bias and more.

We also revamped our use of force policy to further emphasize the importance of de-escalation and updated our training so everyone in the Department was brought onboard.

That meant not just training new recruits. Veteran officers have also gone through this training, as part of a continuing education program that we implemented over the last three years and that will continue to ramp up to 40 hours of in-service training annually by 2021.

Early results are in, and I'm excited to report that police-involved shootings are at their lowest levels in a decade, down 80 percent this year compared to where we were ended 2009. I credit our new training for much of this improvement.

We are also busy making sure we are getting the most out of the more than 1,000 new officers that have come to the Department.

With the help of the University of Chicago's CrimeLab, we are in the midst of a manpower analysis that will help us ensure that the officers we brought in have been deployed to the areas of greatest need.

The new Office of Public Safety Administration also aims to put 151 sworn officers back on the street by revamping our administrative functions, including the offices of finance, human resources and IT.

Then on September 30th, CPD began requiring officers to swipe in and out each workday. This effort was designed to begin to track and curb absenteeism.

Besides these efforts in manpower, training and staffing, the Department has invested heavily in technology.

We have added Strategic Decision Support Centers or SDSCs in 20 police Districts throughout the city.

These technology hubs feature live feeds from security cameras and advanced gunshot detection systems that rely on microphones placed in known hotspots.

SDSCs enable CPD to dispatch officers to the location of gunfire at a moment's notice and monitor these locations using live-stream cameras.

I've seen officers in these rooms receive a gunshot alert, locate an offender on camera and notify responding officers, who arrive on the scene while the offender is still firing.

We are planning to bring these SDSC rooms to the 001st and 016th Districts this year, which will complete the roll out.

These technology hubs were made for the Bureau of Patrol, but they expanded to the Detective division this year through CPD's Area Technology Centers or ATCs.

The ATCs were funded by philanthropist Ken Griffin and bring technology focused on investigating crimes to the CPD's three detective Areas.

Detectives use the ATCs to collect surveillance video from a variety of sources, which can then be used as part of an investigation and later prosecution.

The rooms cut through all sorts of computer formatting and proprietary software, allowing detectives to view any and all security camera video.

The ATCs also give detectives quick access to a suspect's cell phone, providing location data, photographs, social media posts as well as call and text message information.

A report released last month from the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the Police Executive Research Forum recommended adding two detective Areas to the West Side.

These new Areas, which are included in our 2020 budget request, will make our detectives more responsive and improve access for victims and witnesses living with the 25th and 11th Districts.

Area 4 and Area 5 will come online next year and also have ATCs. I believe these investments in the Detective division will help CPD continue to improve its clearance rate.

Additional technology has included the roll out of Body Worn Cameras for all beat officers and the purchase of more tasers, giving cops a non-lethal option when it comes to high-risk encounters.

Now technology and manpower are great, but none of our strategy works without rebuilding the trust in our communities.

CPD has done this by expanding the reach of the Office of Community Policing and requiring that every district and bureau develop annual strategic plans that are designed to jointly problem solve with the community around issues identified by the community.

We are currently in our planning process for 2020. We have developed project plans for each of the community policing advisory panel's recommendations and have begun issuing quarterly reports on our progress.

I have also brought community policing under the direct oversight of the Office of the Superintendent. My goal was to ensure that this office had the resources it needed to build relationships within all 22 of CPD's diverse districts.

In the same way I embraced community policing, I have also welcomed the consent decree. This court-mandated decree has been in effect for 8 months, but CPD began working on these reforms well before the monitor was ever selected.

We've been able to make progress against every area of the consent decree as a result. I expect this progress will continue for years to come and will help us become the model police department this city deserves.

Well, I had my doubts about our strategies at times, but the numbers tell us what we are doing is working. It's perhaps best to compare this Summer to the Summer of 2016.

Murder was down 41 percent this Summer vs the Summer of 2016. That translates to 141 murders this summer, compared to 240 murders in the Summer of 2016.

That's a difference of nearly 100 lives in just the summer months. That's 100 fewer funerals. That's 100 fewer sobbing mothers and heartbroken fathers.

Robbery was also down 29 percent in this Summer vs. the Summer of 2016, and Burglary was down 31 percent for the same period.

Shooting victims were down 34 percent, and shooting incidents were down 38 percent this Summer compared to the Summer of 2016.

This is an equally significant statistic, as each shooting victim has the potential to be a murder victim.

For those that survive a shooting, the wounds never truly heal. The victims of gun violence are often left physically or psychologically broken.

Reducing these shootings in the city that I love has been one of the great accomplishments of my career.

From coordinating resources in conjunction with our fellow City departments to working on-the-ground with the violence interrupters and community organizers -- it has truly taken an all-hands-on-deck effort to get where we are now.

Whether it's block clubs and faith groups or the local businesses and school communities, residents from across Chicago have come together to unite against violence and assist our officers in their work every day.

I want to thank the officers on the street and my Command Staff for believing in this Department and instituting the changes that have brought us to this point.

I also want to thank Mayor Lightfoot and the members of City Council for supporting the initiatives that have helped to make our city a safer place.

I want to thank my family for supporting me through it all.

But mostly, I want to thank the people of Chicago for having faith in me to do this job.

Being Superintendent has taken its toll on my health. It's brought me to tears at times.

But this job has also made me smile, laugh and see the good in all people. For that, I thank you.

Thank you for showing me what it means to be from Chicago.

This city refuses to give up. This city is our home.

I'm proud to be from Chicago.

This city is more than just where I am from. This city has made me who I am.