



NEWS RELEASE

Chicago Police Department

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Mayor Emanuel, Interim Superintendent Escalante Celebrate Police Recruit Graduation and Promotional Ceremony

CHICAGO – Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Interim Chicago Police Superintendent John Escalante commemorated the graduation of 100 sergeants and 63 police recruits today in a ceremony at Navy Pier. An additional 22 police officers were promoted at today's ceremony, including two chiefs and five deputy chiefs.

Under the Emanuel Administration, more than 1,600 police officers have joined the Chicago Police Department, along with promotions at every rank to bolster strong leadership in the organization. Recently, Interim Superintendent Escalante announced a new leadership team at the Police Department that brings diversity at the department's senior command ranks to a historic level. Now half of police chiefs and deputy chiefs are African-American and more women are serving in executive leadership roles.

"Day after day, in thousands of encounters with the public, police officers do their jobs and do their jobs well, and today we recognize their important work," said Mayor Emanuel. "Today's ceremony is an opportunity to rededicate our commitment to community policing, where officers do not just patrol a neighborhood but are also part of their neighborhood. By doing so, the Police Department can help build stronger and safer communities."

"Today we welcome a terrific class of police officers from the Academy that are joining the ranks of Chicago's Finest," said Interim Superintendent Escalante. "And the professionals we are promoting today are leaders whose example inspires us. They meet the highest standards of integrity and professionalism. They are committed to serve and protect. And they have brought honor to the department."

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February 2016 Graduation and Promotional Ceremony

The graduating class of 63 recruits includes nine officers who have served in the military, 19 officers who attended Chicago Public Schools, and 20 officers who represent another generation of policing in their families. Commitment to service was also recognized in the promotion of Department members to vital roles within the organization, including two chiefs, five deputy chiefs, seven commanders, and eight captains.

The graduating recruits and newly promoted members highlight the shared commitment of Mayor Emanuel and Interim Superintendent Escalante to ensuring public safety in the City of Chicago. The ceremony comes as several new policies and procedures are beginning at the Department, and more training is scheduled for patrol officers – including mental health awareness training for all officers.

The ceremony comes on the heels of the Chicago Police Department's latest recruitment campaign. More than 70 percent of those who have recently applied to join the Department are minority applicants, which reflects CPD's goal to increase diversity among its ranks, and build a police department that represents the makeup of the city.

Police recruits spend five months at the Police Academy and receive approximately 1,000 hours of instruction and training before beginning a Field Training Program as a Probationary Police Officer. Upon acceptable completion of the Field Training Program and 13 months of field experience, Probationary Police Officers become full-fledged police officers.

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