



NEWS RELEASE

Chicago Police Department

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For Immediate Release
April 10, 2016

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Mayor Emanuel, Interim Superintendent Johnson Announces More Than 450 Body Cameras Being Shipped to Chicago

Interim Superintendent Eddie Johnson to lead by example and wear a body camera starting next week

Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Interim Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson are announcing that more than 450 body cameras are being shipped to Chicago this week as part of the Chicago Police Department's body-worn camera pilot program.

Once training is complete, the cameras will be worn by officers and supervisors on all three watches in seven police districts participating in the pilot program. The cameras will be able to record audio and video, and save up to 72-hours on a single charge in high-definition. The first phase of camera program has been successfully underway in the Shakespeare Police District, and now will expand to Austin, Wentworth, Deering, Ogden, South Chicago, and Gresham – covering one-third of the city.

In leading by example, Interim Superintendent Eddie Johnson plans to wear a body camera when he is on patrol, starting this week. He has also ordered his command staff to wear cameras while they are on patrol.

Body cameras play an important role in improving public safety and restoring trust and accountability in the police department. In the first phase of the pilot program, citizen complaints against police were drastically reduced merely by having the presence of a camera.

“With Interim Superintendent Eddie Johnson leading the police department in wearing one, body cameras represent an important step forward as the work of restoring trust and accountability in the department continues,” said Mayor Rahm Emanuel. “The police department will leverage this technology to fight crime, enhance transparency, and strengthen the fabric of trust that is vital between police and the community.”

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“Body cameras are one tool that the police department uses to serve and protect the people of Chicago,” said Interim Superintendent Eddie Johnson. “They play an important role in not just fighting crime, but also in learning from actual encounters with the public. In addition to wearing a body camera myself, I’ve asked my command staff to wear one as well to demonstrate our commitment to rebuilding trust with the residents we’re sworn to serve.”

In order to facilitate the cameras, the Department is in the process of upgrading its technological capabilities so the video can be uploaded and stored at the end of each shift. The Department expects the first cameras to be online later this spring and rolling out to the all the six districts throughout the summer.

In addition to the body cameras, and as part of the Department’s commitment to restoring trust with the residents its sworn to serve, CPD is also training and equipping police officers with a Taser as part of its goal to create the safest environment possible for officers and the residents they serve. Starting June 1, every officer responding to calls for service will be equipped with a Taser.

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