



NEWS RELEASE

Chicago Police Department

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Chicago Police Announce Expansion of Body Worn Camera Program

Today, the Chicago Police Department (CPD) announced the latest implementation of public safety reform and the expedited expansion of body worn cameras to every patrol officer by the end of this year. CPD has expanded its body-worn camera program to the 8th (Chicago Lawn) District.

“Body cameras are helping improve the quality of service we provide to communities throughout Chicago,” said First Deputy Superintendent Kevin Navarro. “The technology has been embraced by police officers and community groups alike because these tools are crucial in our efforts to strengthen community trust, promote officer safety, and ultimately make Chicago safer.”

The 8th District is the latest district to roll out body worn cameras and continues CPD’s public safety reform efforts by supporting officers in every neighborhood to reduce crime, promote transparency and strengthen trust within the communities that police serve. The cameras have also aided in recent criminal investigations and promoted officer safety.

The body worn camera program first launched as a pilot in January 2015 in the Shakespeare Police (14th) District on the Northwest Side. Since then, officers have taken more than one million segments of footage. By year’s end, all CPD uniformed patrol officers on every watch in the City will be outfitted with the newest technology – one full year earlier than originally planned.

The body cameras are lightweight, durable and can record eight hours of high-definition audio and video on a single charge. They also seamlessly integrate with CPD’s existing cloud-based evidence servers, which greatly assist detectives in investigations and strengthen court cases. In preparation for widespread use of body cameras, police district stations have undergone infrastructure improvements to accommodate the increased bandwidth and technology associated with the AXON II cameras.

Following the 2015 pilot, CPD expanded the program in the Spring of 2016 to include Austin (15th), Wentworth (2nd), Deering (9th), Ogden (10th), South Chicago (4th) and Gresham (6th). So far this year, CPD rolled out body worn cameras to patrol officers in Englewood (7th), Harrison (11th), Central (1st) and Near North (18th). The remaining ten districts will receive body worn cameras in 2017 including Grand Crossing (3rd), Grand Central (25th), Near West (12th), Calumet (5th), Jefferson Park (16th), Albany Park (17th), Town Hall (19th), Lincoln (20th), Rogers Park (24th) and Morgan Park (22nd).

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