

# CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

# PAX 501

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## THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

When the Democratic National Convention opens next week, our City will be host to some 35,000 people from across the country and around the world. In addition to the delegates and their families, the political dignitaries, and news media representatives, the Convention will attract a number of people who will be here to voice their opinions on a range of current issues and events. These demonstrators recognize that the Convention offers them a tremendous opportunity to promote their ideas and their causes.

As a Department, we must recognize that the Convention presents us with tremendous opportunities as well. Like the politicians and demonstrators attending this year's Convention, we too will be on the world's stage. That's what makes this Convention such a unique opportunity to demonstrate our pride, our professionalism, our law enforcement excellence. The Convention is an outstanding opportunity to create a new, accurate and lasting image that reflects the true values and ideals of our Department.

These opportunities exist not just for those members assigned directly to the Convention. They apply equally to the vast majority of police officers and other Department members who will be working, as you do every day of the year, to provide for the safety and well-being of Chicago's neighborhoods. Your performance will be just as instrumental to the safety and success of the Convention.

Yes, the Convention presents enormous public safety challenges for our Department. To ensure the public's safety, as well as our own, will require that we maintain a heightened level of awareness. But we have faced similar challenges in the recent past, including this year's Bulls' championship celebration and the dozens of other major events our City has hosted the last few years.

Just as your performance in those instances generated accolades from the press and the public, I am confident that our planning and training for the Convention, and your professionalism during the event, will once again earn high praise and respect for our Department. As importantly, the Democratic National Convention is but another opportunity for our Department to further secure our position as the finest, most effective and versatile police department in the country.

Matt L. Rodriguez  
Superintendent of Police