



CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Garry F. McCarthy, *Superintendent of Police*

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The departure of delegates and dignitaries has now concluded this year's NATO summit. It is immensely gratifying to realize the role our Department played in providing for the safety and security of all residents and visitors during this time, and the discipline and dedication the world was able to recognize in our performance of a challenging duty.

The prominence of attendees and issues at the NATO summit often generates public demonstrations of opposing viewpoints. As we prepared for this event, the tension that historically has resulted from these differences raised doubts of individuals who were unconvinced of the positive aspects of our hosting the summit. However, Chicago traditionally has hosted many large scale events, and we have been successful at it because of the skill and professionalism of Chicago Police officers.

The planning process leading up to the NATO summit was comprehensive to ensure officer safety and the seamless delivery of police services. Specialized legal and tactical training, exceptional intelligence gathering, coordination between bureaus and multi-level deployment are outstanding examples of the preparation that enabled us to achieve our public safety goals. The well-defined, strategic design of this national security special event also encouraged great partnerships with local and national law enforcement resources and tools that will support us as we move forward with our overall mission.

Planning also emphasized what we could expect to see in the field during the event: overall, a largely law-abiding group of individuals exercising constitutional freedoms, but also a small, contentious faction intent on criminal activity and testing our patience, restraint, and tolerance.

Our situational awareness reinforced a safe and reasonable response to the tactics of those engaged in behaviors that undermined the best law enforcement efforts of other cities hosting international events before us. At the same time, we did not waver in protecting the rights of responsible citizens as we do every day without compromise. Many individuals approached me personally to express their gratitude for your professionalism.

We were clear from the start that we would not tolerate criminal activity. Those failing to heed this message could not disregard the experience, vigilance, and excellence of officers whose mission was to protect the common good. As the world witnessed, it was only cops versus criminals—not protesters.

The honor and gratitude I feel for leading the best police officers in the world is only tempered by my regret for the insult, and in some instances, injury you endured. I have the responsibility of asking you to go into situations where danger knowingly exists. However, you accept that duty not because I or others direct. You do it because you are Chicago Police Officers.

It is disturbing that a commitment to the dignified work of law enforcement would have any officer tolerate disrespect. Under no circumstance should an officer be expected to withstand physical assault without defense. At times when this occurred during the summit, everyone continued with planned strategies, limiting opportunities for protesters to harm police. Under duress, your training revealed itself, and ultimately, your resolve and integrity were on display for the world to see.

From planning to execution, I praise and thank you for your exemplary work. I also thank our law enforcement partners who flanked us to support a flawless operation. Officers who were directly charged with maintaining safe and lawful demonstrations and officers who continued to deliver first class police service Citywide to residents in our communities all played a vital role in this shared success. Contrary to what the doubters expected as we dedicated resources to the summit, murders and shootings were down Citywide during this past week.

I am privileged to be part of this world-class Department, and to serve with such high-caliber, strongly united representatives of an immensely fulfilling profession. You set the bar once again for excellence in policing. You are a model for the world and have made the Chicago community, your brothers and sisters in blue, and no doubt your families very proud.

My gratitude and respect for all you do cannot be adequately expressed. I am truly honored to work with you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Garry F. McCarthy".

Garry F. McCarthy
Superintendent of Police