



CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

# PAX 501

Eddie T. Johnson, *Superintendent of Police*

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## A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT JOHNSON ON IPRA TRANSPARENCY POLICY

I would like to thank all of you for your efforts this past Memorial Day weekend. I was out on patrol and also present at multiple Faith and Action events and was humbled by the overwhelming dedication of officers working to build community faith and trust in our Department. Through our continued efforts, not just on holidays, but every day, we can do our part to bring about a safer Chicago.

As you all are aware, this past February, in an effort to promote transparency, and consistent with recommendations laid out by the city's Police Accountability Task Force, the city announced its intention to release evidence from all open IPRA investigations into police-involved shootings and other serious incidents that resulted in great bodily harm. In my last PAX 501, I let you know that this release would be forthcoming. The official release of this evidence, which includes video, audio, and police reports, will be hosted on a website by the city, starting on Friday, June 3rd.

As outlined in the city's new policy, here are the important facts around this release:

- The release will not include any closed IPRA investigations, nor will it include footage of cases involving minors, as they are protected under Illinois State Law.
- Moving forward, with the exception of those cases involving minors, evidence in incidents of officer-involved shootings and other serious incidents that result in great bodily harm will be released on this public site within 60 days of its occurrence.
- Before evidence in a case is released, prosecutorial and law enforcement agencies may submit a written request to obtain a one-time extension of 30 days if public release of the evidence would impede an open investigation.
- Evidence will be publicly available on the website for 6 months after it is first posted online.

I want to take this opportunity to reiterate what I have said all along: this release is not intended to target individual officers for their actions. Not every officer involved in these cases is under investigation, and the investigation itself does not necessarily mean that an officer involved in an incident will be recommended for discipline. In fact, the release and availability of this evidence further illustrates the challenges our officers face every day when they put their lives on the line to protect the City of Chicago.

But what is also true is CPD's zero tolerance for intentional misconduct. Ensuring that our department has a system of accountability starts with me, and if you treat every individual and situation with professionalism and respect to do your job right, you will always have my support.

I understand that this is a time of considerable change throughout our Department and that you may have more questions, so feel free to reach out to me at [AskHQ@ChicagoPolice.org](mailto:AskHQ@ChicagoPolice.org).

Please know that while I have pledged to rebuild the faith of the community in CPD, I have not forgotten the tremendous sacrifice every member of our Department makes to serve the City of Chicago.

Thank you for your continued service and dedication. Stay Safe.

Eddie T. Johnson  
Superintendent of Police