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CITY COUNCIL CONFIRMS EDDIE JOHNSON TO SERVE AS SUPERINTENDENT OF THE CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chicago City Council today voted to confirm Eddie Johnson to serve as the Superintendent of the Chicago Police Department (CPD).

"Eddie Johnson has the command, the character and the capability to lead the Chicago Police Department. He understands how to reduce crime and rebuild trust between the police and the communities they serve," said Mayor Rahm Emanuel. "Confirming him today is the right thing to do because he is the right leader for the Department at this time. He will reinvigorate the tradition of community policing within the CPD, where officers don't just patrol a community but are part of a community. In short, he will make our communities safer and will give Chicago a Police Department that every Chicagoan will be proud of."

The Council also voted for a one-time exemption to the rules governing the selection of the Superintendent position. In doing so, and by voting to confirm Superintendent Johnson, the Council provided the Police Department much-needed resolution and the ability to focus on the significant challenges and reforms that lie ahead.

Superintendent Johnson is a Chicago native who grew up in Cabrini-Green until he was 9-years-old before moving to Washington Heights where he remains today. He joined CPD as a patrolman in May 1988, and has held a number of leadership positions in the Department's Bureau of Patrol -- ranging from patrolman to sergeant, lieutenant in the 15th District, Commander in the 6th District, Deputy Chief for Area Central, Executive Officer, and Chief of Patrol. Johnson is a member of the Executive Board of NOBLE's Chicago Chapter, and has received a number of awards -- including department commendations, Chicago Defender Men of Excellence Award, and others.

Superintendent Johnson had a strong track record in fighting crime, notably as the deputy chief of patrol for Area Central. Under his leadership, Area Central led the city in 2013 with a 32% reduction in firearm related violence, lowering the number of murders, shootings and shooting victims in Area Central. And during his tenure as the Deputy Chief of Area Central in 2014, his team continued to drive down firearm related violence. Under his watch, Area Central patrol drove down shootings by an additional 27% -- double the shooting reduction of other Areas in the city at the time.

The Mayor has worked with Superintendent Johnson over the past five years and following months of conversations with a wide range of individuals, including police officers, community leaders, clergy, aldermen, law enforcement experts and others from which he gathered input on what they believe are the key attributes needed for someone to lead the Chicago Police Department, he believes that Johnson is the right person for the job at this time.

Superintendent Johnson has already hit the ground running. Over the past few weeks, he has participated in community meetings, dropped by roll calls with patrol officers, and met with community leaders. And just this week, in leading the Department by example, Interim Superintendent Johnson announced that he will wear a body camera while on patrol and directed his command staff to wear one as well.

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