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**MAYOR EMANUEL, POLICE SUPERINTENDENT JOHNSON
CELEBRATE GRADUATION OF 182 NEW OFFICERS**

Mayor Rahm Emanuel today joined Chicago Police Department (CPD) Superintendent Eddie Johnson in commemorating the graduation of 182 new police officers in a ceremony at the Arie Crown Theater at McCormick Place, as part of the Department's hiring plan to grow the Department by nearly 1,000 sworn officers over the next two years. The class is nearly 70% minority and includes 72 CPS graduates, 10 veterans and 40 who have family members who are current or former Chicago police officers.

"Today we celebrate a new generation of officers," said Mayor Emanuel. "The 182 diverse and dynamic recruits who graduated today represent the first part of our commitment to add 1,000 officers, lieutenants, detectives, and sergeants to the Chicago Police Department. As one step in a comprehensive effort to reduce violence, our officers are dedicated to the philosophy of community policing and de-escalation of conflict."

During the six-month police academy, recruits benefited from training on the Department's new use of force policies released this past May. The new set of policies are based on feedback from two public comment periods, numerous community meetings and officer and supervisor focus groups. They provide clear direction for officers when the use of force is permitted and emphasize sanctity of life, de-escalation and accountability. In addition, graduating recruits were among the first to receive the Department's new cultural awareness training at The DuSable Museum of African American History. This new curriculum is a demonstration of a commitment to rebuilding trust through training that reflects the city's values and cultural heritage.

"I am proud to welcome the latest class of new police officers to the Chicago Police Department," said CPD Superintendent Eddie Johnson. "These officers, who have received training in our new use of force policy as well as cultural sensitivity training at the DuSable Museum, are representative of the direction this Department is headed to be a better CPD for everyone. I am confident they will help us during every interaction to build community trust and make our city safer."

During five months at the Police Academy recruits learn all applicable laws and protocols for being a Chicago Police Officer. In addition to physical training, they receive instruction in procedural justice, crisis intervention and de-escalation, use of force, community building and critical thinking. Graduating recruits will now begin a 13-month Field Training Program as a Probationary Police Officers.

This graduation continues to fulfill CPD's hiring plan to grow the Department by nearly 1,000 sworn officers, including more detectives and police supervisors, and reflects the Mayor's commitment to increase the diversity of the Department. Since the beginning of 2017, 678 new recruits entered the Training Academy, and 52 Lieutenants, 142 Sergeants, 266 Detectives and 122 Field Training Officers have been promoted.

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