

# The Chicago Fire Department 2015 Budget Hearing

## Budget Statement

Madam Chairman and members of the City Council, my name is José Santiago, Fire Commissioner of the Chicago Fire Department. The Chicago Fire Department is pleased to be here today to discuss its 2015 budget.

Under the leadership of Mayor Emanuel and with your support, the Chicago Fire Department continues to make the most of technology, training, and personnel to safeguard the residents and visitors of our great city.

As always, the core mission of the Chicago Fire Department is to protect the lives and property of the residents and visitors of Chicago from fire, disasters, emergency medical issues, and hazardous materials incidents.

I'm proud to say that fire deaths are at an all-time low in Chicago. Last year, we set a record low of 16 deaths for the entire year. This is in contrast to the number of fire-related deaths that were well over 100 annually in the 1980s. We've achieved this reduction by providing comprehensive fire education to residents, better information on the causes and prevention of fire, and the increased usage of smoke detectors and fire resistant materials for construction.

This year, the Chicago Fire Department has installed approximately 3,000 free smoke detectors, provided 50 free smoke detectors for the hearing impaired, and given away approximately 10,000 smoke detectors at firehouses, aldermanic offices, fire safety programs, and neighborhood canvasses. All of these smoke detectors were provided through corporate donations and grants.

We continue to reiterate the message that smoke detectors save lives. In 12 of the 16 fire-related deaths last year, the buildings had no working smoke detectors. That is why we continue to teach our young people the importance of making sure every home is equipped with a working smoke detector, as required by law.

To that end, the Fire Department's Public Education Unit has educated and trained thousands of students using our department's Survive Alive House and the mobile Survive Alive Unit. These provide realistic but safe simulations so children, in addition to adults and seniors, can learn the proper way of escaping an actual house fire.

So far this year, the Public Education Unit has reached out to almost 150,000 people for drills, training, and education on fire escape and safety. As part of our management strategy, we are always looking for ways to leverage grant funding to provide more opportunities for public education and safety.

The Chicago Fire Department's Fire Prevention Bureau conducts inspections of commercial and high occupancy residential buildings to ensure compliance with applicable fire codes.

While fire calls and deaths are down, calls for emergency medical services are on the rise and the Fire Department has made adjustments to meet the increasing demand. This year, we have completed a program to upgrade 15 Basic Life Support ambulances to the status of Advanced Life Support--also known as ALS--to ensure that every ambulance can provide the highest level of care.

We continue to upgrade our Engines and Trucks to dual service by making them ALS capable with paramedic staffing and equipment. Aside from actual transportation of the patient, these units provide virtually the same level of care as an ambulance, and allow for stabilization of the patient until ambulance transport.

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The Chicago Fire Department responds to roughly 700,000 calls for service per year, a number that is not getting smaller with the passage of time. I pledge to continue to make the most efficient use of personnel and equipment to meet our commitment to public safety.

I am also pleased to report that we had a very successful recruitment campaign this year that will culminate in a new entrance exam in December. This year applicants could apply online, and the Fire Department worked with our public libraries to make sure everyone had access to the online application system. I would like to thank the efforts of our aldermen in getting the word out and assisting in our recruitment. I know we all share the same goal of making sure our public safety agencies are representative of the communities they serve. And, as a result of our recruitment campaign, nearly half of our applicants sitting for the December exam will be minorities. We will continue to reach far and wide to make sure everyone is aware of this great job opportunity and by doing so ensure that we are moving to make this department as diverse as the city we serve.

In closing, it is my goal to focus on the efficient use of the City's resources and I will continue to lead the Chicago Fire Department in delivering unparalleled fire suppression and emergency services to the City and its residents, and educating the public on fire prevention.

Even though we had a lowest recorded death rate for fires last year, our goal is to work to make that number ZERO by reaching out to teach, train and demonstrate the ways to prevent, respond and escape fires and other life threatening situations at home, on the street, at school, or at work.

The Chicago Fire Department appreciates and is grateful for the ongoing support it receives from its residents, the City Council, and visitors to the City of Chicago. I am here today, along with key members of my command staff, to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.

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## MBE/WBE Contracting Data

Period: 2014 YTD

Total Purchases: \$5.2M

<u>MBE/WBE Spend</u>	
WBE:	\$334.2K (6.34%)
Asian MBE:	\$143,383 (2.72%)
African-American MBE:	\$482,711 (9.16%)
Hispanic MBE:	\$222,732 (4.23%)
<b>Total Purchases:</b>	<b>\$1.183M (22.45%)</b>

## Staffing Data

Department Ethnicity and Gender				
	Male	Female	Total	%
Asian	59	5	64	1.29%
Native Amer	13	1	14	.28%
Black	783	95	878	17.68%
Hispanic	592	55	647	13.03%
White	2967	255	3222	64.89%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4533</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>4965</b>	
	<b>91.30%</b>	<b>8.70%</b>		

New Hires Ethnicity and Gender				
	Male	Female	Total	%
Asian	6	1	7	2.22%
Native Amer	1	-	1	.32%
Black	15	8	23	7.28%
Hispanic	51	8	59	18.67%
White	193	33	226	71.52%
<b>Total</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>316</b>	
	<b>84.18%</b>	<b>15.82%</b>		

Department Managers Ethnicity and Gender				
	Male	Female	Total	%
Asian	1	1	2	2.56%
Black	11	14	25	32.05%
Hispanic	8	-	8	10.26%
White	36	7	43	55.13%
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>78</b>	
	<b>71.79%</b>	<b>28.21%</b>		

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## Interns

School	Gender	Race
Mother McAuley High School	1 female	White
Prospective High school of Technology	1 female	White
Kennedy High School	1 female	White
Taft High School	1 male	Asian
One Sumer Chicago	1 male	African-American
Lincoln Park High School	1 male	African-American
Ace Technical Charter High School	1 male	African-American
Kenwood Academy High School	2 males	African-Americans
Instituto Health Sciences Career Academy	1 male	African-American
King College Prep High School	1 male	African-American
Bogan Computer Technical High School	1 male	Hispanic
Solorio Academy High School	1 male	Hispanic
Steinmetz College Prep High School	1 male	Hispanic
Kennedy High School	2 males	Whites
Chicago International Charter School	1 male	White
Hong Kong Baptist University	2 females	Asians
New York University	1 female	Asian
Morgan Park High School	1 female	African-American
John F. Kennedy High School	1 female	African-American
John F. Kennedy High School	1 female	Hispanic
Lane Tech High School	1 female	Hispanic
Taft High School	1 female	Hispanic
Devry Advantage Academy High School	1 female	Hispanic
Eastern Illinois University	1 female	White
Butler University	1 female	White



# Chicago Fire Department Organizational Chart

