

ERIC WINSTROM

SUMMARY

I am a legally trained law enforcement professional, currently serving as a commander with the Chicago Police Department. I am planning on relocating outside of the Chicago area in August and seeking new challenges in law enforcement.

EXPERIENCE

Chicago Police Department, Chicago, Illinois

Commander – Area 5 Detectives

August 2000 to Present

February 2020 to Present

- Tasked with the opportunity of opening the new Area 5 on the northwest side of Chicago, and currently leading approximately 190 sworn department members.
- Oversaw highest murder clearance rate of entire city of 85% in 2020.
- Lowest civilian complaint numbers of any detective Area.
- Added the Area 5 Technology Center dedicated to processing video surveillance, and cellular and computer data, credited with providing vital evidence in the clearance of numerous homicides.
- Member of Chicago's COVID-19 response team. Created police response policy to balance criminal enforcement and virus mitigation by permitting ticketing in lieu of custodial arrest for non-violent offenses.
- Coordinated Department efforts following civil unrest of 2020, allocating citywide resources to protect life and property while ensuring the exercise of First Amendment rights leading to hundreds of peaceful protests where no violence occurred, and no arrests were recorded.
- Crafted intergovernmental affairs procedures to create a constant electronic communication of pending legislative issues to communicate the Superintendent's position to the Mayor's Office.
- Utilized as department policy expert for criminal, civil and administrative proceedings including as Federal 30(b)(6) witness and Illinois 213(f)(3) expert witness.
- Rotating operations commander for City-wide critical incidents (e.g. SWAT, police involved shooting, mass casualty).

Captain – 009 District

November 2019 to February 2020

- Second in command of the Deering District in Chicago's South Side. 009 is a tier 1 district with approximately 400 sworn members assigned to a coverage area including the Back of the Yards, Bridgeport, Brighton Park and Chinatown neighborhoods.

Lieutenant – Research and Development Division

May 2018 to November 2019

- Highest ranking uniformed member of the Research and Development Division supervising officers assigned to the Accreditation (CALEA), Policy and Procedure, and Research and Analysis Sections.
- Primarily responsible for the creation and revision of all Departmentwide policy.
- Directed policy revisions to comply with the consent decree with the Office of the Attorney General of Illinois.
- Chicago Police Department obtained CALEA accreditation July 28, 2018.

Lieutenant – Office of the Superintendent

September 2017 to May 2018

- Member of core negotiation team for settlement of State of Illinois V. City of Chicago, 17 CV 6260, resulting in the consent decree approved by Northern District of Illinois Judge Dow in January 2019.
- Assisted in the creation of the Office of Reform Management, a unit designed to monitor compliance with the consent decree and other reform efforts.
- Recipient of the Superintendent's Award of Merit for efforts surrounding negotiation and implementation of consent decree.

Lieutenant- 018 District

February 2017 to September 2017

- 1st watch field lieutenant for the district covering the northern section of downtown Chicago. 018 District's patrol area includes critical infrastructure, high-traffic tourist destinations, government facilities, recreation and sports venues, a large residential area including numerous Chicago Housing Authority units, and several institutions of higher education.

Sergeant assigned as Legal Officer II – Office of Legal Affairs

January 2015 to February 2017

- Oversight of Discovery Unit for Civil Litigation.
- Reviewed internal separation cases and civil claims against the Department for legal sufficiency.
- Assisted Corporation Counsel in the completion of answers to Interrogatories and certified on behalf of the City.
- Designated liaison for independent investigation into the City Law Department and the FBI's investigation into the shooting death of Laquan McDonald.
- Designated discovery liaison for complex litigation including Smith V Chicago (allegations arising out of ACLU report with settlement offer of 1.5 Billion dollars) and all John Burge related post-conviction litigation.
- Lead attorney for First Amendment related issues and primary designee for Black Lives Matter and election-related protest issues.
- Recognized for the arrest of two robbery offenders outside of the Headquarters building.
- Instructed sergeant and lieutenant promotional classes on limiting exposure to civil liability.

Sergeant – Office of Legal Affairs

January 2014 to December 2014

- Assisted the Coordinator of Intergovernmental Affairs in review of pending legislation.
- Composed draft ordinances, bills, amendments, mayoral resolutions and letters in support of or opposed to legislation.
- Recognized for the off-duty arrest of 3 robbery offenders.

Sergeant and Commanding Officer – Special Investigations Unit

November 2012 to December 2013

- Directed and oversaw day-to-day operations of 30-person unit with investigative responsibility for all child sex offenses and internet crimes against children in Chicago.
- Designed curriculum and instructed Child Abuse and Child Sex Crimes investigations for detective, sergeant and lieutenant promotional classes.

Sergeant – Area One/Area Central HGS/RBT/SVU

October 2010 to November 2012

- Supervised detectives in every Area One office including Special Victims, Robbery and Homicide.
- Coordinated Detective Bureau logistics for NATO Summit.
- Received Special Commendation for issuing citywide pattern of 40 armed robberies, developing covert plan to locate and apprehend offenders, returning victims' property and securing convictions.

Sergeant – 025 District, 2562 Tactical Team

July 2008 to October 2010

- Prepared, executed or supervised over 40 search warrants as 2562 tactical team sergeant. Maintained highest gun recovery, search warrant and felony arrest totals of all teams.
- Recipient of Problem-Solving Award for shutting down large drug operation in residential neighborhood and Department Commendation for administering CPR to fellow sergeant.

Detective – Area One RBT/SVU

February 2006 to June 2008

- Investigated property crimes, missing persons and child abuse cases. Received multiple Department Commendations for clearing newsworthy crime patterns.

Police Officer – 013 District, 1363 Tactical Team

March 2004 to January 2006

- Awarded Department Commendation for pursuit and apprehension of armed homicide offenders.

Police Officer/Law Instructor- Police Academy

October 2003 to March 2004

- Instructed Criminal Law, Jurisdiction and First Amendment Investigations.

Police Officer – 013 and 002 Districts

August 2000 to October 2002

- Uniformed patrol and Loop Traffic Detail.

Morris County Prosecutor's Office, Morristown, New Jersey

October 2002 – February 2003

Detective

- Investigated crime, located and interviewed witnesses, prepared cases for trial. Coordinated with municipal law enforcement to direct investigations and develop trial strategies.

EDUCATION

Brooklyn Law School, Brooklyn, New York

Juris Doctor, June 2000

Recipient of Richardson Merit Scholarship.

Prosecutor's clinic at Kings County (Brooklyn, NY) District Attorney's Office

Law Clerk at New York City Police Department's Legal Bureau

Rutgers College, New Brunswick, New Jersey

B.S., Administration of Justice, October 1997

Activities: President, Rutgers University Fire Department

Other Qualifications

Admitted to Illinois Bar. Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission# 6305165

May 2011-Present

Licensed Private Security Contractor. License# 119001310

December 2010-September 2020

Illinois Notary Public

July 2014-Present

Member of Illinois and International Associations of Chiefs of Police

Guest Lecturer on Criminal Investigations and Constitutional Policing at DePaul University

Personal Interests

I have been married for over 10 years to my wife Rachel and we have a 7-year-old daughter (Molly) and 9-year-old son (Connor). We spend as much time as possible doing outdoor recreation together as a family. I am a mentor to my colleagues and junior members of the police department, often called upon for assistance in my off time with administrative, legal or operational issues, help with promotional exam study groups, and guidance on personal matters.