

COMMUNITY COMMISSION for PUBLIC SAFETY and
ACCOUNTABILITY
PUBLIC MEETING
Thursday, September 25, 2025, 6:30 p.m.
Kennedy-King College
6301 South Halsted Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

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APPEARANCES:

Vice President Remel Terry
Commissioner Aaron Gottlieb
Commissioner Abierre Minor
Commissioner Rubi Navarijo
Commissioner Gina Piemonte
Executive Director Adam Gross

1 VICE-PRESIDENT TERRY: Good evening. Good
2 evening. Thank you all for being here. I'm
3 going to call this meeting to order. The
4 September 25th meeting of the Community
5 Commission for Public Safety and Accountability
6 is called to order at 6:37. I'm going to begin
7 with the call of the roll. And I do want to ask
8 that you place your cell phones on silent mode,
9 remain seated, and if you will be using any small
10 hand-held devices, please refrain from using them
11 in a way that interferes with the ability of
12 others to see or hear the proceedings. We will
13 begin with Commissioner Gottlieb.

14 COMMISSIONER GOTTLIEB: Present.

15 VICE-PRESIDENT TERRY: Commissioner Rubi
16 Navarijo.

17 COMMISSIONER RUBI NAVARIJO: Present.

18 VICE PRESIDENT TERRY: Commissioner Driver.
19 Commissioner Minor. Commissioner Piemonte.

20 COMMISSIONER PIEMONTE: Present.

21 VICE PRESIDENT TERRY: Commissioner Terry who
22 is present. Commissioner Wortham.

23 With four out of seven
24 Commissioners present, we do have a quorum to

1 conduct the Commission's business.

2 The next item of business is public
3 comment. If you would like to leave public
4 comment or share something related to the
5 Commission's work on Public Safety and
6 Accountability, you have a few options. You can
7 speak at the public meeting, such as this
8 tonight. You can also submit public comment in
9 writing by emailing
10 CommunityCommissionforPublicSafety --
11 CommunityCommissionPublicComment@cityofchicago.
12 org, or you can bring a copy of your comment to
13 one of our meeting staff.

14 People who asked to speak tonight
15 have completed a sheet, and it's been provided.
16 The names have been randomly drawn based on the
17 number of speakers, and each speaker will have
18 two minutes to speak.

19 Today we are encouraging community
20 members to provide public comments about how
21 CPD's budget and spend in the manner that's most
22 responsive to the community.

23 Each year, the Commission is
24 required by ordinance to review and, if needed,

1 recommend changes to the proposed budget to
2 review at the same time as the mayor's proposed
3 budget for the City is made public, which is
4 usually mid October.

5 The Commission has to complete its
6 review for the City Council vote on the City
7 budget which is usually November or December.

8 The Commission's review of CPD's
9 budget is guided by the Commission's purpose,
10 listed in the ordinance increasing public safety,
11 building public trust between communities and
12 CPD, increasing the efficient use of public
13 safety resources, and encouraging preventative,
14 proactive community and evidence-based approaches
15 to public safety.

16 Community input is always an
17 essential component of our review process, and
18 we've allotted ten minutes for public comment to
19 allow for as much input as possible on the budget
20 so that public comment period has increased a bit
21 of 30 minutes.

22 Again, if you would like to submit
23 input regarding the CPD budget in writing, you
24 can submit it to

1 CommunityCommissionPublicComment@cityofchicago.
2 org.

3 So our first speaker -- I would ask
4 that you come to the mic. Remember to spell your
5 name. Say and spell your name for the record.
6 And you have two minutes.

7 The first speaker we have is Brian
8 Young, Junior. The following speaker after that
9 is Tiwon Sims and then Jackie Baldwin.

10 MR. YOUNG: Brian Young, Junior. B-R-I-A-N.
11 Y-O-U-N-G, J-R, community member and organizer in
12 the 25th District, in the 31st Ward, and I'm
13 specifically here to call in the election of a
14 candidate that will stand firm for the CCPSA
15 president, that will stand firm for police
16 accountability and fight unabashedly to end
17 pretextual stops.

18 This moment in history represents a
19 battle between those who want progress and more
20 democracy for everyday people, versus those who
21 want to drag America back to the era of Jim Crow,
22 whether racist federal military occupation in DC,
23 the possible lynching of a black student in
24 Cleveland, the slaying of a man by ICE in the

1 Chicagoland suburbs or the temperature of our
2 Windy City which resembles the arctic, as kids
3 are being snatched from schools by ICE agents.

4 We Chicagoans are not folding in
5 combat with an embolden white supremacist order.

6 With this, we ask you to stand with
7 the people and the movement that birth the ECPS
8 ordinance and the CCPSA.

9 We ask you to stand with the people
10 in the movement that not only elected a
11 progressive black mayor who resisted the federal
12 administration, but the masses of Chicago that
13 act as the vanguard against police terror and ICE
14 domination.

15 As a member of a district that
16 boosts a large population of black and brown
17 working-class people, we fought too hard and have
18 come too far to sit idly by when I or any member
19 of our community could be pulled over,
20 incarcerated, deported or slain.

21 So this point needs to be made
22 plain, stand with the people's movement for
23 democracy by electing a pro-police,
24 pro-accountability -- a pro-police

1 accountability, sorry, and a candidate who is pro
2 to end pretextual stops, president. Thank you.

3 VICE PRESIDENT TERRY: Thank you.

4 MR. SIMS: I'm going to spend my time talking
5 about Krystal Rivera, the officer who was
6 murdered, and Carlos Baker, why he not in jail.

7 They said COPA was taking care of
8 it, but I've been to COPA like maybe ten times
9 now. No follow-up, no accountability for
10 anything.

11 I'm still dealing with what I'm
12 dealing with when we got people like Bielecki who
13 is coming here tonight and do his criminal walk
14 and give his criminal speech, as if he cares
15 anything about law enforcement or anything about
16 the City of Chicago, same with the young man just
17 did. What does that apply to him? ICE. But the
18 Mayor hasn't said anything about Krystal Rivera.
19 He surely said something about, Oh, well, the
20 slaying of the guy by ICE and the federal agents,
21 but a dead officer, a murdered officer, and it's
22 been concluded as murder to no avail. Who cares
23 though? She's just a 36-year-old mother, good
24 cop, murdered, slain, but the cop killer is still

1 being sponsored by Chicagoans.

2 And y'all can do whatever you all
3 want with the mic. The truth still going to be
4 heard.

5 I've been coming here countless
6 times just to ask, Hey, could the Commission help
7 me? I've been wrongfully arrested. Case number,
8 once again, 25120458301. April 16th when I was
9 wrongfully arrested. I've been coming here
10 asking for help, some accountability, because
11 it's coming from the fifth floor, from Brandon
12 Johnson, and that's individuals like this young
13 man Brian comes and gives his voice, his power to
14 what? Because none of it applies to us. We're
15 Americans, but we're get nothing, socioeconomics,
16 nothing. But you going to use that voice, young
17 man, because they paid you to. They wanted you
18 to. It is a strong voice, but we still get
19 kicked down here. What about Krystal Rivera?
20 I'm just saying.

21 VICE PRESIDENT TERRY: Thank you.

22 MS. BALDWIN: Hi. Good evening. My name is
23 Jackie Baldwin. As always, expression of
24 gratitude to those of us in attendance tonight

1 because we are concerned about the budget and
2 what happens with policing in Chicago, and
3 gratitude to the Commissioners who continue to do
4 the work, even in the face sometimes of
5 adversity.

6 You know, this Commission was born
7 from decades of people showing up. We sat around
8 tables before ECPS was passed in 2021, people of
9 black and brown communities, people that
10 represented faith communities, grass-root
11 organizations, labor unions across all of
12 Chicago's neighborhoods to win ECPS.

13 Our purpose was clear then, and the
14 purpose is clear now, to give a voice and power
15 to those who have been most harmed.

16 I want to thank Anthony for his
17 service, and we do need a president that is ready
18 to shift the narrative. Because last time I
19 checked, Chicago police officers live in this
20 City, too, and this narrative that police versus
21 community and community versus police, I really
22 think and hope that the next president will do
23 something to end that.

24 Police accountability does not mean

1 that you don't like a person. It means that you
2 don't like a system, and the system must always
3 hold the people who uphold accountability.

4 With the budget, we need to look at
5 a budget and make sure that that budget first
6 supports this work and listens to the voice of
7 people like the gentleman that just spoke.

8 He cannot be ignored just because
9 we cannot necessarily satisfy his request here,
10 but he needs to be respected.

11 So, again, my time is out. We need
12 a budget that's fair. Thank you.

13 VICE PRESIDENT TERRY: Are there any
14 additional comments or comments online? Thank
15 you, all. Thank you, all, for your comments.

16 So this concludes our public
17 comment from tonight.

18 Our next order of business is the
19 approval of the minutes. Before today's meeting,
20 an updated draft of the minutes from our
21 Commission's regular meeting of July 31st and
22 draft of the minutes of the Commission's regular
23 meeting held on 28th of August were shared with
24 all Commissioners.

Are there any corrections to the draft minutes that have been circulated? If there are no corrections, I move to approve the minutes.

COMMISSIONER RUBI NAVARIJO: Second that motion.

VICE PRESIDENT TERRY: I moved to approve the minutes of the July 30th and August 28th Commission meetings, and Commissioner Rubi Navarijo seconded. Is there any debate on the motion?

(NO RESPONSE.)

VICE PRESIDENT TERRY: Hearing none, we will move to a vote. Those in favor of adopting the motion to approve the minutes of the Commission's meeting held on July 31st and August 28th, please say aye.

(CHORUS OF AYES.)

VICE PRESIDENT TERRY: Are there any opposed?

(NO RESPONSE.)

VICE PRESIDENT TERRY: The motion passes.

Our next order of business will be new business. The next series of public and closed meetings for Section 2(c)(3) of the

1 Illinois Open Meetings Act allows the Commission
2 to meet in a closed session to consider the
3 following subjects: The selection of a person to
4 fill a public office as defined in this Act,
5 including vacancy in a public office when the
6 public body is given power to appoint under law
7 or ordinance or the discipline performance or
8 removal of the occupant of a public office when
9 the public body is given power to remove the
10 occupant under law or ordinance.

11 Section 2(a) of the Act authorizes
12 the Commission to take a vote to hold a series of
13 closed meetings over the course of not more than
14 three months from today and only for the purposes
15 cited under Section 2(c) (3) .

16 Over the next few months, the
17 Commission may need to meet in closed sessions
18 for reasons allowed under The Open Meetings Act,
19 including discussions about appointments and
20 filling vacancies.

21 I move to hold a series of closed
22 meetings to take place for the maximum period
23 allowable as authorized by Section C(2) (3) -- or
24 Section 2(c) (3) of the Open Meetings Act. Is

1 there a second?

2 COMMISSIONER PIEMONTE: Second.

3 VICE PRESIDENT TERRY: I've moved to hold a
4 series of closed meetings to take place for the
5 maximum period allowable as authorized by Section
6 2(c)(3) of the Open Meetings Act, and
7 Commissioner Piemonte seconded.

8 Is there any debate on the motion?

9 (NO RESPONSE.)

10 VICE PRESIDENT TERRY: Hearing none, we will
11 move to a vote. All of those in favor of holding
12 a series of closed meetings to take place for the
13 maximum period allowable as authorized by Section
14 2(c)(3) of the Open Meetings Act, please signify
15 by saying aye.

16 (CHORUS OF AYES.)

17 VICE PRESIDENT TERRY: The ayes have it, the
18 motion passes.

19 At the Commission's August meeting,
20 Commissioner Driver announced that he will be
21 stepping down as Commission president. According
22 to our bylaws, nominations for Commission
23 officers happen in one meeting, and the election
24 to fill the position happens in a subsequent

1 meeting.

2 Today we will be making nominations
3 to fill the vacancy created by Commissioner
4 Driver stepping down.

5 At our October meeting, we will vote
6 to elect a new Commission president. Do we have
7 any nominations?

8 COMMISSIONER RUBI NAVARIJO: I want to use a
9 motion to nominate Remel Terry to role of
10 president for the Community Commission on Public
11 Safety and Accountability.

12 VICE PRESIDENT TERRY: Motion received from
13 Commissioner Rubi Navajo for Commissioner Remel
14 Terry. Do we have any additional nominations?

15 COMMISSIONER GOTTLIEB: Yes. So I'm going to
16 motion to nominate Commissioner Abierre Minor.

17 VICE PRESIDENT TERRY: And we have a
18 nomination from Commissioner Aaron Gottlieb to
19 nominate Commissioner Abierre Minor.

20 Do we have any additional
21 nominations? Hearing none, nominations are
22 closed, concluding with Commissioner Remel Terry
23 and Commissioner Abierre Minor.

24 Our next order of business will be

1 reports and updates. We will begin with an
2 update regarding the Commission's process for
3 developing recommendations on the CPD budget, and
4 I will turn it over to Commissioner Gottlieb.

5 COMMISSIONER GOTTLIEB: Thank you, President
6 Terry. And thank you to everyone who shared
7 their thoughts on the budget during public
8 comment.

9 As Commissioner Terry said earlier,
10 by ordinance, the Commission is required to
11 review and, if needed, recommend changes to the
12 proposed CPD budget appropriation every year
13 before the City Council votes on it.

14 Since the Commission was formed in
15 2022, budget reports have highlighted the
16 Commission's identified priority areas for
17 strategic investments in CPD's budget.

18 In prior years, the Commission has
19 made recommendations on priorities such as
20 workforce allocation, community policing, officer
21 wellness, and reducing legal judgements.

22 As Commissioner Terry said earlier,
23 the Commission doesn't receive the proposed CPD
24 budget until it is made public, which is usually

1 in mid October. We have a short time to conduct
2 the review. So before the proposed budget is
3 released, we look back at previous budgets and at
4 budget-related issues that Commissioners are
5 focused on and issues that come up in public
6 comments and other community input that the
7 Commission has received, and based on that, we
8 develop some preliminary priorities.

9 This year, the Commissioners have
10 selected four areas as preliminary priorities in
11 our review of the proposed 2026 budget. These
12 topics include support for the Bureau of
13 Detectives and Investigations, Consent Decree
14 policy and implementation, CPD vacancies, and
15 resource allocation, and legal judgements, and
16 risk assessments.

17 These priorities may expand or
18 change once we receive the actual CPD budget
19 for -- or the proposed budget for 2026.

20 Once the City's proposed budget for
21 2026 is released, if you have additional feedback
22 on the budget overall or any of these four
23 priority areas, please email the Commission at
24 CommunityCommissionPublicComment@cityofchicago.

1 org.

2 Again, we usually have a short
3 amount of time to review the proposed budget from
4 the time it is introduced and voted on. If you
5 have additional issues you'd like us to consider,
6 please submit them as soon as possible after the
7 budget is in.

8 VICE PRESIDENT TERRY: Thank you,
9 Commissioner Gottlieb. Are there any questions
10 from the Commission?

11 (NO RESPONSE.)

12 VICE PRESIDENT TERRY: Hearing none, next we
13 will hear from, I guess, Commissioner Piemonte
14 regarding an update on traffic stops.

15 COMMISSIONER PIEMONTE: On April 21st, the
16 City of Chicago submitted two versions of a draft
17 traffic stop policy to the Illinois Attorney
18 General and the Independent Monitor in the
19 Consent Decree between the City of Chicago and
20 the State of Illinois.

21 One version is from CPD and one
22 version is from the Commission. The Commission
23 version includes most of the language from CPD's
24 version, but with some important changes that a

1 majority of Commissioners think are very
2 important.

3 The policies were submitted to the
4 Attorney General and the Independent Monitor
5 because more than a year ago, the Independent
6 Monitor recommended to the judge in the Consent
7 Decree case that traffic stops by Chicago Police
8 Department be included in the Consent Decree.
9 That would mean that changes to CPD's traffic
10 stops policy would be made through the procedures
11 laid out in the Consent Decree and would be
12 overseen by the Independent Monitor and federal
13 judge in the case.

14 On July 31st, 2025, the Commission
15 voted on several items intended to provide
16 direction to the Policy Working Group, which
17 consists of Sandra Wortham and Commissioner
18 Terry.

19 The CPD Policy Working Group
20 Commissioners -- can you hear me?

21 All right. The CPD Policy Working
22 Group Commissioners are using these established
23 positions and continue to work on policy
24 development with CPD and represent the Commission

1 in the traffic stop Consent Decree negotiations.

2 The Commission also continues to
3 gather feedback from the community because it is
4 an essential part of the Commission policy
5 development process, and until a policy is
6 completed, we want to hear from the community.

7 Over the past year, the Commission
8 held many meetings focused on traffic stops.
9 That has included a special meeting, five
10 community listening sessions throughout the City,
11 and focus groups with youth justice-impacted
12 organizations, disability community, and law
13 enforcement.

14 Commissioners have also met with
15 subject matter experts from around the country.
16 Additionally, the Commission provided
17 opportunities for input at its public meetings
18 and for online surveys and feedback forms.

19 All this information is being
20 considered during the policy development process.

21 The Commission is always looking to
22 improve these efforts to ensure all voices are
23 heard and welcomes any suggestions you may have
24 for community engagement around policy

1 development.

2 The Policy Working Group represents
3 the Commission in negotiations on Police
4 Department policies. All Commission working
5 groups take direction from the full Commission
6 and work on behalf of the full Commission.

7 On September 12th, Commissioner
8 Terry and Commissioner Wortham met with
9 representatives from the Independent Monitoring
10 Team, the Office of Attorney General, the City of
11 Chicago, including Department of Law and CPD. In
12 that meeting, the stakeholders continued the
13 traffic stop Consent Decree negotiation and will
14 continue to be involved as negotiations continue.
15 This group will meet again mid October.

16 VICE PRESIDENT TERRY: Thank you,
17 Commissioner Piemonte.

18 Are there any questions from the
19 Commission? Hearing none, now I would like to
20 provide an update on the COPA search.

21 Just a reminder that the
22 application for the Chief Administrator of COPA
23 has been posted. That application is open until
24 October 3rd.

1 The Commission is looking for a
2 strong and principled leader with integrity and
3 sound judgment to serve as the next chief of
4 COPA.

5 COPA plays a critical role in the
6 City's accountability system. It is an
7 independent, civilian-led agency that
8 investigates and makes disciplinary
9 recommendations whenever an officer fires a gun
10 and whenever someone dies or is seriously injured
11 while detained or in police custody.

12 COPA also investigates and makes
13 disciplinary recommendations about the most
14 serious allegations of police misconduct,
15 including excessive force, sexual misconduct,
16 improper searches, and bias-based verbal abuse.

17 In addition to investigating
18 serious incidents, COPA identifies patterns of
19 misconduct and issues policy recommendations to
20 strengthen public trust and improve policing
21 practices.

22 The next COPA chief will lead a
23 team of about 140 professionals across
24 investigative, legal, and administrative

1 divisions, assuring that investigations are fair,
2 thorough, timely, while also driving systemic
3 reforms.

4 The chief will work to build
5 constructive relationships with law enforcement
6 and community stakeholders.

7 Ideal candidates will be attorneys
8 or experienced investigators with significant
9 expertise in criminal, civil rights, labor law,
10 or in law enforcement oversight.

11 The Commission continues to receive
12 feedback from the community as to what they would
13 like to see in the next COPA chief.

14 In addition to hosting four public
15 listening sessions, we met with youth
16 justice-impacted organizations and members of law
17 enforcement and subject matter experts in police
18 accountability.

19 All this feedback will be used to
20 inform our evaluation of candidates. We hope you
21 continue to engage with us in this process.

22 Are there any questions from the
23 Commission?

24 (NO RESPONSE.)

1 VICE PRESIDENT TERRY: Now, we will move on
2 to a presentation from the Mayor's Office of
3 Community Safety regarding the City's plan for
4 the potential increase in federal activities,
5 including ICE and National Guard activities. Hi.
6 Welcome.

7 MR. SANFORD: Good evening. How are you?
8 I'll just introduce myself. Again, my name is
9 Jason Sanford with the Mayor's Office of
10 Community Safety, First Deputy mayor there. And
11 again thank you so much -- I really appreciate
12 sitting here and listening to comments. It's
13 something that's very, very important to me. I
14 know it is to our office.

15 We strive always to build that
16 trust with the community, so it's very, very
17 important. I want to thank, first of all, the
18 Commission and everybody for the invite to come
19 here today.

20 So if I can start just to say that,
21 man, we are really in some really challenging
22 times, right? Absolutely amazing, right? You
23 can turn on your news and see what's going on.
24 This is something that you just see the --

1 obviously the possibility of ICE, the possibility
2 of the National Guard coming in a way that's
3 never been done before. This is something that
4 is -- it's very personal to all of us, and I'm
5 very glad to come and speak about it. And to put
6 it into context a little bit, again, you know,
7 telling you a little bit about myself, also where
8 I'm coming from. I used to work a few years back
9 for the State of Georgia. Have you ever been to
10 Georgia before? Any kind of states or around
11 that way in Florida? And I'll tell you what,
12 does anyone know what is probably the most
13 biggest kind of hazards for that area by chance?
14 Any guess? Usually it's around a coast and
15 usually comes seasonal. It's called hurricanes,
16 right? So I went down there and actually -- I
17 was in Atlanta, and we had to go make sure that
18 all of the regions are ready in the state of
19 Georgia. So we were ready for hurricanes, and
20 everyone is ready for emergency management and
21 everyone is ready for disaster. So we'd go down
22 to -- if you know our story, you know, Rome,
23 there's Athens, Georgia, there's Savannah,
24 Georgia, which is beautiful if you've never been

1 there. It looks like New Orleans and that whole
2 southern vibe, you know.

3 So we went down -- I was actually
4 headed down to Savannah, Georgia, to tell them
5 about this really nice plan that we have in the
6 state, and it was about hurricane evacuation.

7 One of the things you always want to
8 make sure of is that grandma and grandpa isn't --
9 you know, don't evacuate from Savannah, and
10 they're circling around Macon in the middle of
11 Georgia, circling around the Waffle House, not
12 knowing where to go. You want to make sure
13 grandma and grandpa's okay. Right?

14 So that's what we wanted to do, we
15 make sure everybody is okay. I went down to
16 Savannah. I was talking to emergency manager,
17 make sure they know what the police is doing,
18 make sure they know what emergency management,
19 make sure fire knows, EMS, they have the right
20 ambulances to pick up grandma if she needs to go
21 out of the nursing home, all that stuff that goes
22 into planning. And I went down. We had a big
23 meeting, and we're sitting around and sitting
24 with the Chatham County EMA, which is the county

1 there in Savannah along the coast, and I remember
2 talking to him, like this is our plan, this is a
3 great plan. We had a lot into it. I wanted him
4 to take a look. I remember him taking it and
5 throwing it and turning his back on me, he was
6 just like, you know what? I'm not -- how dare
7 the state tell us what to do here. We are the
8 county. We are in charge of our county. We have
9 a home rule state. That was something I'll
10 always remember, because you know what? It was
11 true.

12 Now right away I thought we're going
13 to start building relationships going back and
14 building over time because that's what it's
15 really always about, is building relationships,
16 building those partnerships.

17 But, you know, he had an interesting
18 point and kind of reminded me what we're doing
19 here today. This whole home rule thing. And the
20 state or federal coming in and imposing
21 themselves on what a -- a system that has been
22 created. The federalists created the system
23 intentionally for home rule, for people to know
24 what's going on. The people who are local, they

1 have the relationships you need for businesses.
2 They have the relationships you need to keep
3 people safe. And actually in times these days,
4 that is not given the same amount of respect that
5 was intentional.

6 So you see this federal kind of
7 imposition coming in on us. That's what I kind
8 of wanted to talk to you today about, is when it
9 comes to the City of Chicago, we have things that
10 make us unique.

11 So a little bit about the City of
12 Chicago and what we're dealing with today and
13 what was mentioned, including ICE and National
14 Guard, is I wanted to mention that the City of
15 Chicago upholds what's called the Welcoming City
16 Ordinance. And if you've never heard of it, I
17 wanted to talk about it. That is an ordinance
18 that allows Chicago to be proud of our diversity,
19 meaning ethically, racially, religiously, if you
20 like your pizza thin, if you like thick pizza,
21 you like Chicago style. It's what makes us
22 diverse. It's our diversity that we are able to
23 recognize, look through and recognize and make
24 sure that that person is very important. So this

1 is what makes us -- the City of Chicago a Welcome
2 City ordinance. The Mayor's Office of Community
3 Safety in which I'm First Deputy with, it has a
4 strategy which is rooted in showing up for those
5 who have been historically disinvested.

6 Chicago will remain a safe place for
7 all those different backgrounds.

8 The Welcoming City Ordinance applies
9 to all the City government, including the Chicago
10 Police Department. Okay? The ordinance
11 prohibits any City employee from asking about or
12 assisting in an investigation of immigration
13 status of anyone, unless ordered to do so by the
14 Court of federal law. So there are exceptions.
15 Right? It prevents the City services from being
16 denied to anyone based on their immigration
17 status, and it prohibits local law enforcement
18 from participating in and cooperating with
19 federal, civil immigration enforcement.

20 Now, I'm going to repeat that again
21 because it is really important about this
22 Welcoming City Ordinance. Right?

23 The welcoming City Ordinance
24 prohibits local law enforcement from

1 participating in or cooperating with federal,
2 civil immigration enforcement. Very, very
3 important. Unless they are required to do so by
4 court of a federal law.

5 Since the beginning of the federal
6 administration, immigrants have remained a target
7 for the president with enhanced federal
8 enforcement operations across the country,
9 nationwide protests, and unlawful deployments in
10 other states. One example you've seen in the
11 news was California. I can tell you this, as a
12 former federal employee under Department of
13 Homeland Security, that this is very, very true,
14 that this federal administration has targets, and
15 that is immigrants and enhanced federal
16 enforcement operations across this country like
17 we see and against protestors. It is not the
18 '60s, right, when they were sent in to protect
19 protestors. It is the other way around this
20 time.

21 So, yes, I want to go back. The
22 Mayor's Office of Community Safety and all the
23 City government have and remained diligent to
24 address residents and to equip individuals with

1 the necessary information that they need. The
2 Mayor's Office has remained in communication with
3 the state and local partners to prepare for any
4 and all threats from the federal government.

5 So we continue to stay in
6 conversation with them, continue to talk to them.
7 Some of these talks are every day, a couple of
8 times a day. Every week we're staying in
9 communication with our state partners against any
10 kind of threats that would happen with the
11 federal administration.

12 Chicago has never received any
13 formal communication from the federal
14 administration regarding these deployments. They
15 do not call us directly and say, Hey, this is
16 where we're going to go. We're going to show up
17 over on Ashland. We're going to do this. We're
18 not told about this. They are not communicating.
19 We have not received any form of communication.

20 Actually, in late August, as a mere
21 proactive measure, the Mayor's Office of
22 Community Safety released the following
23 infograph, which you see up here, and this is
24 what I really wanted to talk about with you.

1 We released this with our
2 partnership with the Office of Equity and Racial
3 Justice, Immigration, Migrants, and Refugee
4 Rights, and the Department of Law and the Mayor's
5 press conference.

6 So I wanted to show you this
7 infograph up here. So if you even go to the
8 slides or you want to press it. This is actually
9 information. If you haven't seen this before, we
10 had a presentation. Please send it out to your
11 members. You can also get it on our website. I
12 will be happy to answer any questions even after
13 this, if you want to get my information so you
14 can contact me about it. But this is actually
15 information what we do. You can advance to the
16 next slide.

17 Again, the City of Chicago does not
18 support any unlawful deployment of military
19 troops to the U.S. -- any of these U.S. cities.
20 This is very important. As you can see, now this
21 is where we're going a little bit further.
22 Eventually -- you can see homicides are down,
23 shootings are down, violent crime is down,
24 arrests -- arrests are also down. Think about

1 it. If arrests are down and violent crimes are
2 down, it is not just -- it shows you it is not
3 just because people are arresting more. It's not
4 just policing, right? It is actually the crimes
5 themselves are going down. So you hear on the
6 news justification to come in. Obviously, that's
7 not true. Crimes are going down. So you can
8 actually see, again, we must sustain our progress
9 as we continue to strengthen and commit to our
10 community efforts. This is what the Mayor's
11 Office of Community Safety is all about, building
12 trust.

13 Like I said, back to my story, it's
14 always about building trust. Community must be a
15 part of this, not what you are seeing at a
16 federal level.

17 Next slide. And next slide. Again,
18 these are an infographic that you can share. It's
19 shared in different languages. It makes sure you
20 understand knowing your rights as an individual.
21 The City or state does not have direct authority
22 over federal agencies, just so you know. So,
23 again, these are the different -- we could go
24 through all the different slides, but I want to

1 actually get this in your hand as the most
2 important part because these are important tools,
3 as you mentioned, that the Mayor's Office wants
4 to make sure that you have to strengthen against
5 any kind of federal threat.

6 I want to continue to go on. This
7 up here is due to our -- is an urgent
8 collaboration which we have amongst our teams
9 that we had the opportunity to equip Chicagoans,
10 me and you, with helpful information in these
11 times that we have never seen before.

12 As you can see, the infographs
13 highlight -- continue to highlight and approach
14 safety through investment in people.

15 Chicago's experiencing historic
16 declines, as you said, in crime because this
17 approach is working. It is a national approach.
18 It is a scientifically based approach that is
19 based in the community and it's working. As
20 you -- as we will continue to show up for Chicago
21 as a whole of government, so it is not just
22 police, it's not just fire, it's community-based
23 organizations. It's immigrants and refugee
24 rights. It's nonprofit organizations. We're all

1 working together. It is church, it's faith-based
2 organizations, mosques, everybody. A pastor
3 sitting next to people who are government
4 workers. That's the only way these things are
5 going -- we're going to be able to handle this
6 and is working.

7 The main priority is our
8 communication, and these are based on questions
9 we've already received. So I want to make sure
10 this is specifically for concerns. The main
11 priority of our communication is to provide
12 residents with information on how to stay safe.
13 Urging everyone -- this is important, the last
14 slide. Urging everyone not to intervene with
15 federal operations, exercising your First
16 Amendment rights, delivering information around
17 knowing your rights, Welcome City Ordinance, as
18 we already discussed, and homelessness rights.
19 Knowing your rights is very important. One of
20 those I just mentioned, urging everyone not to
21 interfere with federal operations.

22 Now, the message clearly states
23 that -- and this is through policing, which is
24 the Office of MOCS, or Mayor's Office of

1 Community Safety, has oversight over. The
2 message clearly states that Chicago Police
3 Department does not assist, interfere or
4 intervene with any federal immigration
5 enforcement.

6 I'm going to say that again. It is
7 really important. If you have a pen, write it
8 down or get this infograph. Again, it states
9 that the Chicago Police Department does not
10 assist -- they cannot assist federal agents, they
11 cannot interfere. Both are just as important.
12 They cannot intervene with any federal
13 immigration enforcement. That's what the law is,
14 that's the ordinance, that's what the executive
15 orders have given, that's what the Welcome City
16 Ordinance also gives. So I just wanted to make
17 that clear.

18 Lastly, with this infograph, I just
19 wanted to -- I wanted to point out to all of you
20 some really, really good helpful resources. This
21 is something that will empower you, including the
22 what's called ICCR website, the City of Chicago's
23 website, these are all information that has palm
24 cards, frequently asked questions. All these

1 things are very -- if you think you've asked a
2 question, guess what? Somebody probably already
3 asked it, too. So these are frequently asked
4 questions that I wanted share with you. This is
5 all information -- I also wanted to share a
6 number. If you have a pen and paper, get your
7 pen out real quick. I'm going to give you a
8 number. This is one of those numbers actually
9 what we take, we -- it is a hotline, and this
10 hotline is able to identify and help. If you
11 think you see ICE, this is a hotline you call and
12 report it, and then they can also confirm. You
13 know, you might see something that looks like
14 ICE, but it isn't ICE. So this is the number, a
15 hotline I wanted to give you. This hotline is
16 for the Illinois Coalition for Immigration and
17 Refugee Rights. Very important number here. The
18 number is 855-435-7693. I'm going to say that
19 one more time. This is the hotline to report and
20 confirm ICE-related incidents. This is Illinois
21 Coalition for Immigrants and Refugee Rights.
22 This is who works as a partnership. Not just
23 government, it's everyone working together, all
24 of community. The whole of community. It's

1 855-435-7693.

2 So I wanted to give you those --
3 information. Again, those are resources that you
4 want to have.

5 I want to thank you again for your
6 time. I want to thank you again for this
7 opportunity and thank the Board. I want to thank
8 the Commission for this opportunity. I will be
9 in the back on the other side of the theater
10 afterwards if you have any questions, but, again,
11 I just appreciate your time and appreciate your
12 comments today and know that we're standing and
13 doing everything we can. Thank you so much.

14 VICE PRESIDENT TERRY: Thank you, Mr.
15 Sanford. If you can hold so we can see if any
16 Commissioners have any questions. Commissioner
17 Gottlieb.

18 COMMISSIONER GOTTLIEB: Thanks. And thanks
19 for your presentation. I appreciate it. And,
20 yeah, I wanted to try to get a bit more clarity
21 on sort of the City's position about sort of how
22 they're directing CPD around this sort of
23 federal intervention.

24 You mentioned, for instance, with

1 ICE, that there are some circumstances that's not
2 the norm, but there are circumstances when CPD is
3 expected to cooperate with ICE. What are those
4 circumstances?

5 MR. SANFORD: Like I mentioned in the speech,
6 there are circumstances where the federal court
7 will give an order, but other than that, again
8 our -- the stance in the City is that CPD cannot
9 interfere with, nor can they assist with any type
10 of federal immigration.

11 COMMISSIONER GOTTLIEB: Thank you. So if,
12 for instance -- so if, for instance, let's say
13 ICE asks for an address and claims it's because
14 of some sort of criminal activity, is CPD
15 supposed to provide that address to ICE because
16 of the claim of criminal activity? Do they
17 actually bet the extent to which the threat is
18 credible? Because this administration doesn't
19 always tell the truth. So how does that work?

20 MR. SANFORD: Respectfully, I don't want to
21 get necessarily into, you know, hypotheticals,
22 but I do know that, again, unless there is a
23 court order, then -- and the City of Chicago
24 ordinance, like I mentioned, does not allow for

1 any City employee to release information, again
2 unless there is that federal court order. So we
3 do have a legal team that also is assisting every
4 situation. But that's something that obviously,
5 like you said, we're dealing with in precedent
6 times, and so we definitely stick to say that CPD
7 will not assist, absolutely not in any federal
8 deployment of immigration, so...

9 VICE PRESIDENT TERRY: Commissioner Minor.

10 For the record, Commissioner
11 Minor is present.

12 COMMISSIONER MINOR: Thank you. Awesome.
13 Thank you so much. And thank you for the
14 recommendations for the role. I am present.

15 I want to know what kind of
16 communication can we look forward to if there was
17 some kind of national deployment of troops in
18 Chicago streets?

19 MR. SANFORD: You know, I think that the
20 communication is always going to stick to that --
21 we have -- again, when a situation occurs, we
22 have the Welcome City Ordinance. It's to make
23 sure that we recognize the uniqueness of Chicago.
24 We have something that's very unique, Chicago

1 makes us, and that is that our ordinance protects
2 and makes sure that we do not assist at all in
3 that.

4 So if a situation occurs, then I
5 think that we will give that assessment at that
6 time.

7 Like, for instance, the hotline
8 that I gave out, that's really important.

9 So whatever communication comes out
10 on a situation -- like there's situations right
11 now, if you haven't seen the news, that ICE are
12 going around in the City and outside the City.
13 So we actually work with all of government. We
14 work with immigration rights. We work with ICCR,
15 which is the number I gave you. They are the
16 ones that are able to confirm if a sighting is
17 and also track and find out what exactly is going
18 on.

19 So we're relying a lot on our
20 community partners for that communication. And
21 that's why it's important that you are here, too.
22 If you see something, what do you do? You call
23 the number. You report it out. What we like to
24 call also in like emergency management and public

1 safety is force multipliers, if you ever heard of
2 that. But what is really good is we'll
3 communicate to somebody, and they will
4 communicate to your force, and they'll
5 communicate to your church, and your pastor will
6 communicate to their congregation, and that's how
7 we get the word out.

8 So that's the type of communication
9 that will come into place at that time, so that
10 everyone is well informed that we're, of course,
11 being really -- again, working with -- we're also
12 working, and we're communicating every day with
13 the state and with our partners. Nothing much is
14 going to change with that. We are going to
15 continue to work and continue to communicate
16 that.

17 COMMISSIONER MINOR: Thank you.

18 VICE PRESIDENT TERRY: Commissioner Rubi
19 Navarijo.

20 COMMISSIONER RUBI NAVARIJO: Thank you for
21 being here. I really appreciate it.

22 I just knew that there's been some
23 concerns around protecting the data of our
24 undocumented folks in the City. A lot of

1 undocumented people access services for the City.
2 To the extent that you can, can you address how
3 the City might be -- whether it's the Law
4 Department or other departments are working to
5 protect that sort of information, if you know?
6 If not, we can follow up about that. But I do
7 have another question after this, if that's all
8 right.

9 MR. SANFORD: Yeah, I know the welcome City
10 Ordinance does prohibit any sharing of
11 information unless there is a court order.

12 COMMISSIONER RUBI NAVARIJO: And the second
13 question -- maybe it is not a question but more
14 of a comment. I know that we have immigration
15 liaison officers that work for community
16 policing. Has there been any conversation,
17 whether that's the Office of Community Safety or
18 the Mayor's Office in general, on how to support
19 those officers? I think there's only two
20 officers for the entire City working on
21 immigration matters. And the reason I say that
22 is it is important that the relationship -- the
23 trust building that's been going on with the
24 Chicago Police Department and the communities

1 isn't affected by what's going on to the extent
2 that we can. So is there any conversations about
3 supporting them a little more or expanding
4 capacity or requesting that sort of support?

5 MR. SANFORD: You said it perfectly. I mean,
6 you know, the trust is just going to be so
7 damaging to what's going on. Hopefully our
8 communications we're doing. You know, that is a
9 -- not to escape your question or nothing. That
10 obviously is a CPD question. I don't want to
11 answer on their behalf on that one specifically.
12 That would be something that they would address.
13 But I do know that we would support obviously
14 building that trust in the community because
15 everything that we are seeing in the news is just
16 eroding away. The one biggest thing in our world
17 and life is trust. Even trust in government. So
18 the big rhinoceros in the room that they always
19 told us as a naval post graduate is about to look
20 at you is trust. People have eroded their trust
21 in government more and more, and it just seems
22 like going really quick now, you know, federal
23 administration in DC.

1 that's what MOCS is doing, building trust.
2 Hopefully people understand, and we're all
3 working together. That's the only way we're
4 going to do this, is continue to build our trust
5 and -- but the other part of that question I
6 would refer to CPD for that.

7 VICE PRESIDENT TERRY: Thank you so much, Mr.
8 Sanford, for being here and giving us this
9 overview.

10 So I know there's been a lot of
11 questions and concerns. So I know there's a lot
12 of questions and concerns about, you know, law
13 enforcement involvement with supporting ICE. We
14 heard some of those questions here from the
15 Commission, but what I continue to hear you talk
16 about is this partnership and working together
17 and policies that are in place to protect people.
18 So can you share a little bit about how it has
19 been or what process you have in place in working
20 with the Chicago Police Department to ensuring
21 that you all are collaborative in, you know,
22 balancing out the ordinance and things of that
23 nature that are already on the books?

24 MR. SANFORD: Yeah, you know, the Mayor's

1 Office of Community Safety continues to work --
2 communicate also with Deputy Mayor, Garien
3 Gatewood, they continue to talk to
4 Superintendent, absolutely. That's all the time.
5 So I mean it's really a really good partnership
6 right now.

7 So when it comes to just making
8 sure that what happens or -- you know, making
9 sure that CPD is -- continues to fall in line
10 with this Welcome City Ordinance, it's just that,
11 it is the Welcome City Ordinance. It gives us
12 the guidance that we need on that. So not only
13 that, we have -- there's the executive order
14 that was signed, too, in case situations -- to
15 give more detail than CPD would in that
16 situation, uniformed up in blue, so that you can
17 distinguish what's going on. Federal kind really
18 weird federal thing where they wear the masks,
19 you don't know what's going on. That kind of
20 thing, but CPD is very much understanding where
21 they are. Again, unless there is specific
22 instance where that needs to be under some kind
23 of investigation outside, but it is not
24 immigration related.

1 VICE PRESIDENT TERRY: Thank you. You have
2 one more question.

3 COMMISSIONER GOTTLIEB: Thank you again. So
4 I wanted to go back to the National Guard real
5 quick. So I mean there has been sort of on and
6 off sort of threats about it for at least a month
7 I think. I understand not wanting to share maybe
8 publicly exactly what the strategy would be, but
9 given that there's been -- there's been some time
10 to think about it, has some sort of plan been
11 developed and shared with the agencies who will
12 be directly impacted by the National Guard's
13 presence, that they're prepared if, in fact, the
14 National Guard does come?

15 MR. SANFORD: Yeah, again, like I mentioned,
16 we have not received any direct communication
17 from the federal government saying any kind of
18 deployment or immigration. They're completely
19 silent, you know. Just like under the first time
20 that the president was there under COVID, it went
21 silent. So -- but that's -- regarding plans,
22 obviously, as we are continuing to talk -- we are
23 not just talking the talk, we're making sure
24 we're ready. A lot of, again, public safety and

1 law enforcement data. There is a term "lean
2 forward." It's a stance that came after
3 post-Katrina, if you remember Katrina. Is that
4 people are like, Yeah, we'll do it when it comes.
5 People weren't leaning forward. Now it's like
6 we're posturing. We're ready. So that's the
7 posture that we're at. The City is well ready.
8 We're already communicating. It's not like all
9 of a sudden something is going to happen. Oh, my
10 gosh, who am I going to call? We're already
11 talking and talking with our state, absolutely.

12 VICE PRESIDENT TERRY: Thank you so much for
13 your time. We appreciate you being here, and we
14 look forward to probably having your office out
15 again to give us further updates.

16 MR. SANFORD: Thank you. I appreciate it.

17 VICE PRESIDENT TERRY: Thank you.

18 So at this time, we're going to
19 move towards adjournment of this meeting.

20 To connect with the Community
21 Commission for Public Safety via our social
22 media, we have Facebook, and you can search
23 Chicago CCPSA, or you can search for Chicago
24 Community Commission for -- not Chicago,

1 Community Commission for Public Safety and
2 Accountability. Our Instagram, Twitter is
3 CCPSA_Chicago, and YouTube at Chicago CCPSA.

4 The Commission's next regular
5 meeting will be Thursday, October 30th, at 6:30.
6 The location is the Copernicus Center at 5216
7 West Lawrence.

8 I would like to thank you all again
9 for your time and for joining us tonight. We
10 hope to see you on October 30th, and we encourage
11 you to bring someone with you. And we hope you
12 will stay engaged and have others join you, and
13 with there being no further business before the
14 Commission, this meeting is adjourned.

15 (Meeting adjourned at 7:30
16 p.m.)
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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

Re: COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND
ACCOUNTABILITY

I, MAUREEN A. WOODMAN, C.S.R., do hereby
certify that the foregoing Report of Proceedings
was recorded stenographically by me and was
reduced to computerized transcript under my
direction, and that the said transcript
constitutes a true record.

I further certify that I am not a
relative or employee or attorney or counsel of
any of the parties, or a relative or employee of
such attorney or counsel, or financially
interested directly or indirectly in this action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set
my hand of office at Chicago, Illinois this 7th
day of October 2025.

MAUREEN A. WOODMAN, CSR
License No. 084.002740