

1 COMMUNITY COMMISSION for PUBLIC SAFETY and
2 ACCOUNTABILITY

3 SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING

4 Thursday, April 30, 2026, 6:30 p.m.
5 DePaul College Prep High School
6 3333 North Rockwell Street
7 Chicago, Illinois

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9 APPEARANCES:

- 10 Vice President Angel Rubi Navarajo
- 11 Commissioner Sandra Wortham
- 12 Commissioner Aaron Gottlieb
- 13 Commissioner Abierre Minor
- 14 Commissioner Gina Piemonte
- 15 Commissioner Anthony Driver
- 16 Executive Director Adam Gross

1 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARJO: Good evening,
2 everyone. We're currently waiting on a quorum of
3 commissioners so we can legally start the
4 meeting. I apologize for the delays. I
5 appreciate you coming, and we hope to get started
6 shortly.

7 Good evening, everyone. The April
8 30th meeting of the Community Commission for
9 Public Safety and Accountability is called to
10 order.

11 Please place your cell phones on
12 silent mode, remain seated, and refrain from
13 using hand-held devices in a way that would
14 interfere with the ability of others to see or
15 hear the proceedings.

16 We will begin by calling the roll
17 to establish a quorum. Commissioner Gottlieb.

18 COMMISSIONER GOTTLIEB: Present.

19 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARIJO: Commissioner
20 Minor. Commissioner Piemonte.

21 COMMISSIONER PIEMONTE: Present.

22 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARJO: President
23 Terry. Commission Wortham.

24 COMMISSIONER WORTHAM: Present.

1 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARJO: Commissioner
2 Driver?

3 COMMISSIONER DRIVER: Present.

4 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARJO: With four
5 members of the Community Commission for Public
6 Safety and Accountability present, we have a
7 quorum, and we can conduct the Commission's
8 business. I'm sorry. Five.

9 Before we begin tonight, we want to
10 extend our deepest condolences to family and
11 friends and colleagues of Officer Bartholomew who
12 tragically lost his life in the line of duty.
13 His courage, service, and sacrifice to our City
14 will not be forgotten. We hold him in our
15 thoughts. The officer who was wounded in this
16 incident as well, we hope for his full recovery.

17 This heartbreaking incident is a
18 reminder of the tragic violence that continues to
19 take too many lives and underscores the
20 importance of us working together to create safer
21 communities for all Chicagoans.

22 The next item of business is public
23 comment. I'd like to say a few words about the
24 Commission's rules for behavior at Commission

1 meetings.

2 The Commission's bylaws have rules
3 that apply to everyone at our meetings, both
4 Commissioners and people in the audience. The
5 rules are designed to make these meetings a place
6 where all speakers are safe, have an opportunity
7 to be heard, and are able to speak without
8 disruption or intimidation.

9 If people interrupt, disrupt,
10 harass, threaten, discriminate, or disrespect the
11 chair of the meeting -- or disrespect, the Chair
12 of the meeting will call for order, issue
13 warnings to people violating the rules, and can
14 ultimately have someone removed for violating the
15 rules.

16 Commissioners can also make motions
17 to enforce the rules. We ask everyone to help
18 create a space where we can have hard
19 conversations and allow every speaker to be
20 heard. Thank you.

21 If you would like to share something
22 related to the Commission's work on Public Safety
23 and Accountability, you have a few options. You
24 can speak at a public meeting. You can also

1 submit public comment in writing by emailing your
2 comment to
3 CommunityCommissionPublicComment@cityofchicago.
4 org.

5 If you have a printed version of a
6 comment, you can give it to someone on the
7 Commission or someone on the Commission staff
8 tonight.

9 People who wanted to speak were
10 asked to submit their names in writing earlier
11 tonight. A member of the Commission staff drew
12 the names at random. We have 20 minutes for
13 public comment, which is enough time for around
14 ten public speakers. If your name is not called
15 to speak tonight, Commissioners would still like
16 to hear from you. If you don't have an
17 opportunity speak but have a printed copy of your
18 comment, you can share with a staff member or you
19 can email us at
20 CommunityCommissionPublicComment@cityofchicago.
21 org. All comments that are submitted will be
22 shared with Commissioners.

23 We will now begin public comment.
24 Speakers will be called in the order in which

1 their names were drawn. If your name was called,
2 please approach the microphone and line up in the
3 order in which your name is called. When it is
4 your turn to speak, please say your name and
5 spell your first and last name then offer your
6 comments. Each speaker will have two minutes.

7 Our first speakers being brought
8 together is Keo Jean-Joseph, Maria Puga, and
9 Alfonso Puga.

10 MS. JOSEPH: Good evening, Commissioners. My
11 name is Keo Jean-Joseph. Pronouns are they/them.
12 K-E-O, J-E-A-N, J-O-S-E-P-H. I am District
13 Councilor for the 24th police district which
14 includes the 40th, 49th, and 50th wards.

15 According to the network's
16 measuring safety volume, the need for survivor
17 services and protection is both significant and
18 growing.

19 In the 49th Ward, Illinois hotline
20 contacts increased by 34 percent.

21 In the 40th Ward, by 44 percent,
22 and in the 50th Ward, they increased by 46
23 percent.

24 These numbers matter because

1 hotline contacts represent real people, people
2 surviving, who are reaching out for safety,
3 housing, counseling, and legal support, and are
4 often met with a lack of follow-up and
5 consideration.

6 This level of need requires a
7 holistic approach. The Chicago Police Department
8 is funded approximately \$2.1 billion for 2026,
9 accounting for about 20 percent of the City
10 spending.

11 While that investment continues,
12 survivor services remain limited, despite rising
13 in demand.

14 So I urge the Commission to focus
15 on three things. First, expand community-based
16 victim services, not just police responses.
17 Survivors often seek help outside of law
18 enforcement.

19 Second, invest in culturally
20 competent and language accessible services,
21 especially in the 49th and 50th Wards where we
22 have a large immigration and diverse population.

23 Third, track outcomes, not just
24 contacts with CPD, but whether survivors are

1 actually receiving safe housing, financial
2 support, and long-term stability.

3 Public safety requires prevention,
4 trust, and healing. We must meet survivors where
5 they are and ensure no one falls through the
6 cracks. Thanks.

7 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARJO: Thank you for
8 your comment. Maria Puga.

9 THE INTERPRETER: I ask if we can make the
10 accommodation for the translation because I will
11 be translating for her.

12 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARIJO: No problem.

13 MS. PUGA (INTERPRETER): My name is Maria
14 Puga. I am here because about two years and
15 seven months ago, my son went to Pilsen, and he
16 was murdered.

17 Since then, we've been asking the
18 homicide detective that's been assigned to my
19 son's case updates on what is happening with this
20 case.

21 There is a person that is helping
22 me by the name of Leonardo Quintero, and he is
23 the one handling the emails for me to reach out
24 and speak to whoever is necessary.

1 Even though he is my advocate and
2 advocating for my family, the detectives in
3 charge tell him that they can't share anything
4 with him because that they are already in contact
5 with her and the family.

6 And what I forgot to put at the end
7 of that, it is a lie. They are not in contact
8 with her, and she is just very frustrated because
9 every day she faces that she has no answers to
10 resolve -- her son's murder resolved.

11 The detective's name is John Power.
12 It's been about a year and a half that we've been
13 asking for an in-person meeting, and it's still
14 being denied.

15 Please, something needs to be done
16 so that they can find my son's murderer. I'm
17 asking this Commission to please help me.

18 Today with me are two of his
19 teachers; his preschool teacher and his high
20 school teacher. They know me. They know my
21 family. They know what I did for my son. I
22 volunteered at the school, and I was so watchful
23 for my son so that nothing would happen to him,
24 but he was murdered.

1 I'm here to ask this Commission to
2 help me. It's not fair for me that I did
3 everything right as a parent for my son, and
4 there's still no justice for him.

5 If this Commission could help me, I
6 would appreciate it very much.

7 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARIJO: Thank you for
8 your comment. Alfonso Puga.

9 MR. PUGA (INTERPRETER): My name is Alfonso
10 Puga. My son was murdered in Pilsen about two
11 years ago, and since then, me and my wife have
12 had a lot of meetings with a lot of mothers and
13 families that have lost loved ones in acts of
14 violence in Chicago. And what we have found,
15 that the police and the higher-ups -- instead of
16 solving our cases. And what we have done is been
17 constant in contact with these detectives, and
18 they do not answer our requests. They do not
19 answer us at all. And the only answer that we
20 receive from them is that we are investigating.

21 We have even met parents that have
22 lost their children 10 to 15 years, and they
23 still tell them they're just investigating.

24 So that parents -- we're here

1 because we want parents to realize what's
2 happening here in Chicago. There's innocent
3 people that are dying. People that should not
4 die. They didn't owe anything. They weren't in
5 any problems. And the police is not doing
6 anything. Thank you.

7 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARIJO: The next
8 speakers are Kayla Nguyen, Brenda, Amalia.

9 MS. NJUYEN: Hello. My name is Kayla Nguyen.
10 That's K-A-Y-L-A. Last name N-G-U-Y-E-N.

11 I'd like to applaud the Commission
12 for holding a meeting like this. This is
13 something needed in the City, and this is a good
14 step forward to that in choosing the community to
15 do that. So I really want to applaud, especially
16 Commissioner Minor, for putting this forward
17 today.

18 What I do want to raise in regards
19 to victim service is measures for those who are
20 wrongfully convicted in this City, which is the
21 number one capital of wrongfully convicted cases
22 in the nation.

23 People who have experienced police
24 torture are victims of police crimes. What

1 measures are there in victim services for those
2 who have had their trust in the police broken for
3 communities who have experienced this and grown
4 up and seen this around them?

5 I don't think that there is enough
6 focus on that, around victim services. You
7 expect victims of police crimes to go to these
8 police. That's a difficult ask. And so I'd like
9 to draw attention to that.

10 Further along these lines, you
11 know, we have immigrants who are experiencing
12 then crimes at the face of the ICE and the
13 federal agents who have detained their
14 communities, detained their families, their loved
15 ones, and faced further aggression from the
16 police, their local law enforcement who is also
17 charged with, quote-unquote, "protecting them,"
18 instead they face aggression from both local and
19 federal law enforcement.

20 For these people, victim services
21 may not have proper language, translation
22 services, interpretation services. They may not
23 have their adequate trust in the system in
24 government and these services to be able to

1 approach these and get the proper help they need.

2 I implore the Commission to take
3 action to end CPD ICE collaboration in order to
4 restore the trust in communities. Thank you.

5 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARIJO: Thank you for
6 your comment. Brenda.

7 THE INTERPRETER: I'm going to translate.

8 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARJO: Just for the
9 record, Commissioner Minor is in attendance.

10 AMALIA (INTERPRETER): My name is Amalia.
11 I'm here for the same thing. My child was
12 murdered a couple of years ago, and I'm here
13 because the police hasn't done anything about it.

14 I want the police to do something
15 because there's violence going on in the City,
16 and there's a lot of loss of youth in the City
17 because of this type of violence.

18 Sometimes there are organizations
19 that do help like emotionally, but that is not
20 enough, and there's more mothers like me in
21 Chicago that are suffering this. Thank you for
22 listening.

23 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARIJO: Brenda.

24 BRENDA: Good evening. My name is Brenda,

1 and the mother of Juan, Junior. My son was only
2 18 years old when his life was taken away. For
3 three years ago, I've been living with this pain.
4 Not many answers. Junior was not just a case.
5 He was my baby. He was a father. He was very
6 loved. He mattered, and he still matters to this
7 day.

8 I'm here because I will not let his
9 name be forgotten. Please don't let his case be
10 forgotten either.

11 My son deserves justice, so I'm
12 asking you to please keep his case active.
13 Assign the resources needed and give our family
14 answers. We have been waiting for three years,
15 and I want justice for junior. That's all.

16 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARJO: Thank you for
17 your comment. The next three speakers are
18 Claudette. Sorry if I butcher this. Chela
19 Garcia, and Melissa Johnson.

20 CLAUDETTE: Good evening. I would like to
21 start by saying that as we consider these matters
22 of public safety, identity shielding and
23 survivorship are not enough to determine good
24 policy and good practice and good approaches.

1 If myself or anyone else is a
2 survivor of a particular circumstance or adverse
3 experience, and I make the choice to promote
4 racist, right-wing Reaganite solutions that have
5 been refuted in the peer-reviewed literature for
6 decades, that makes it worse.

7 If I were to try and use the
8 argument that because of my survivorship, that
9 those types of Reaganite, regressive approaches
10 should be pursued, that doesn't give me
11 credibility. That makes it worse.

12 We need to be pursuing policies
13 that unwind criminalization, instead of policies
14 that are inadequate and insufficient in terms of
15 addressing root causes and criminalization.

16 I want to say that with the
17 inclusion of additional folks with a social work
18 background on the Commission, I hope that these
19 types of approaches will be uplifted, because I
20 think that that presents the types of expertise
21 that has not been well represented here.

22 There's a journal of abolitionist
23 social work for a reason, and I would urge you
24 all to acquaint yourself with that area of

1 literature. Thank you.

2 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARIJO: Thank you for
3 your comment.

4 MS. GARCIA: Good evening. My name is
5 Chela Garcia. I work with the Little Village
6 Community Council, but today I am here also as a
7 mother.

8 I'm here because December 2020, my
9 adopted son was murdered in an act of violence.
10 And I know who did it. He literally told it to
11 my face. He is in jail right now for something
12 else, and there's still no resolution on his
13 case.

14 And, you know, being a mother, I've
15 spoken to other mothers, and even started an
16 advocacy group at Little Village Community
17 Council called Mothers and Families United for
18 Justice because a lady walked into my office and
19 told me her son was murdered, and the very next
20 question she was asked or told was, What was her
21 documented status.

22 There is a lot of people like
23 myself, a lot of families like myself that know
24 the murderer or know what happened in the case,

1 and there's still no resolution to that.

2 The experience that people are
3 telling you about detectives saying that they're
4 investigating, that is, you know, the thing to
5 push off the family of having to deal with what's
6 happening. And we understand that it's an
7 incredible thing, but they are callous to what
8 the families are going through.

9 And families need to have a
10 check-in. If it can't be with the detectives
11 themselves, then it should be somebody from the
12 community, maybe District Council, anybody that
13 would be able to assist in reducing that
14 callousness that comes from just putting in your
15 work and investigating what you need to
16 investigate, but also keep in mind that victim
17 has a family that still is here and still wants
18 answers and needs that answer, even if it's, I
19 don't have anything. I am still investigating.
20 Even if it's that just to show their face to
21 them. It shouldn't be a year and a half that you
22 have to keep on asking the homicide detective to
23 have a meeting with you. That's it. Thank you.

24 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARJO: Thank you for

1 your comment.

2 MS. JOHNSON: Be brief, be brilliant, and be
3 gone. So my name is Melissa Johnson.

4 M-E-L-I-S-S-A, J-O-H-N-S-O-N, and I am going to
5 talk about something I am excited about. I'm
6 going to follow up from the We Are Our Own
7 Medicine conference, but I can't do that with
8 excitement in my voice about like letting you
9 know that I acknowledge all the suffering in this
10 room. God, it's killing me.

11 And I'm involved in my community
12 for a lot of reasons. I have a lot of titles,
13 but the last title is the most important one.
14 I'll get to that.

15 So I am the co-chair of advocacy
16 with the National Council of Jewish Women. I am
17 the GVP lead for them. I'm going to be in
18 Springfield next week. I'm an advisory board
19 member for SK8 Liborius in St. Louis. Google
20 that. It is pretty cool. I am training to be
21 the 1st District court advocate. I just joined
22 the Young Associates Board with the Chicago Help
23 Initiative. I'm on the front lines of
24 homelessness and mental health downtown. And my

1 most important title, I was orphaned in this town
2 when I was ten years old.

3 And during the We Are Our Own
4 Medicine conference, there was a youth panel on
5 the second day. And, you know, I sat there, and
6 I tried my hardest to pretend like I was not
7 crying the entire time, and then my pen ran out
8 of ink, because I was listening to Chicago's
9 youth, and, you know, I live downtown, and we've
10 been talking about these teen takeovers, and
11 there's so much, like, binary media commentary
12 about it, but when you really listen to like
13 neighbors and stuff, it seems like I know what
14 these kids want. I got to be brief.

15 So they wanted security. They
16 wanted structure, but they wanted it to be cool.

17 I know Commissioner Stamps has
18 already done these block parties, but she has
19 worked with The Creative Network, and that's the
20 kids that, you know, do the Chicago footwork,
21 which is so cool, and I was thinking we need to
22 bring some of those footwork crews and maybe
23 include some Chicago police officers that know
24 how to dance. And then also Brian636, he does

1 stunts on YouTube. We should bring him out and
2 teach motorcycle safety, and skating, and BMX.
3 Those are my ideas. Thank you.

4 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARJO: Thank you for
5 your comments.

6 The next three speakers are Louise
7 Carhart. I believe this is Sun. Nicholas
8 Hernandez. And then Leo Quintero will be our
9 last speaker.

10 MS. CARHART: Louise Carhart. L-O-U-I-S-E,
11 C-A-R-H-A-R-T. I want to speak about my
12 experiences dealing with CPD victim services who
13 I interface with pretty regularly.

14 I'm an immigration attorney, and I
15 help a lot of people who are seeking U visas
16 which are victims of violent crimes.

17 In the past year, something that's
18 important to know about U visas, you need police
19 certification in order to pursue your visa
20 application. So you have to send an application
21 to CPD and ask for them to sign it and certify
22 that you reported the crime, you cooperated with
23 police when you reported it, and that you were a
24 victim.

1 In the last year, a lot of language
2 in these U visa certifications have changed, so
3 that it makes it more difficult for people to get
4 status at the end of the application process.

5 CPD officers have started putting
6 in language about how people aren't cooperating,
7 or they don't speak the same language as these
8 people so they can't advocate for them or have
9 any kind of interface with them that would be
10 productive.

11 This is a very niche issue, I
12 realize that, but it really affects a lot of
13 people whose only pathway to citizenship and
14 legal status in this country is because they were
15 victims of a crime, and that is a whole separate
16 issue. But I would really urge this Commission
17 to specifically address the impacts that changes
18 in CPD -- I'm not sure if it's directives, I'm
19 not sure if it's training, but there are only
20 certain officers who can sign off on these U visa
21 certifications, and the language has changed in
22 the past year, and it is preventing people from
23 seeking any kind of legal status, and a huge part
24 of victim services is making sure that someone is

1 stable and is able to live their life without
2 constant fear, and a big part of that is
3 legalization.

4 So I really urge you to look into
5 this issue and pressure CPD to address their
6 policies.

7 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARIJO: Thank you.

8 MR. HERNANDEZ: My name is Nicholas
9 Hernandez. I'm just here to inform folks that,
10 Hey, the police department needs to improve
11 their customer service. I've been to the police
12 precinct on multiple occasions. I wasted eight
13 hours on three separate incidents. I never
14 received a follow-up.

15 I was a victim of a crime in my
16 20s. I had rendered first aid to someone. I,
17 unfortunately, couldn't cross the street to get
18 to the second victim when I was hit by a City
19 vehicle and having needles through my spine to
20 recover physically and mentally recover from not
21 being able to provide aid to a second gunshot
22 victim. I had my information stolen from a
23 government office. I had reported this to the
24 police. When I went to the police department, I

1 was ridiculed and denied a police report. I
2 followed up with COPA. I was informed that
3 police officer wasn't even there. I kept
4 following up, providing my evidence. I even
5 informed and escalated this to Garien Gatewood.

6 I have been trying to seek justice
7 when I was rehabbing mentally and physically.
8 Like right now, I can't do a proper fist, and I
9 have three discs broken after a City vehicle
10 reversed into me. All these are police reports.

11 As I tried to provide this
12 information and inform folks, Hey, here are the
13 online messages that I was receiving. I was
14 being stalked online, receiving threats. I
15 can let a lot of that slide, but when that person
16 started liking pictures of me and my family
17 members to intimidate me, once more, I went to
18 the police department. I've yet to receive any
19 type of response. That's my personal thing.

20 What the lady mentions is very
21 important, too, about the U visas. I also have
22 community members that their names are left off
23 the police report.

24 It is not fair if someone is

1 undocumented that they are not able to go to the
2 police to get help.

3 If someone says, illegal alien, I
4 want to let you guys know, if there's no
5 documented person that's a witness to your crime,
6 why would they step up to help you?

7 The Illinois crime victim program,
8 it's very important, but if your name is left off
9 the police report, they are not going to be able
10 to help you. And I was cursed out for not being
11 able to have my name on the police report. Nine
12 months passed, I received a letter --

13 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARIJO: Your time is
14 up at this time. Appreciate it.

15 MS. SEAGRAM: Hello. My name is Sun Seagram.
16 I live in Bucktown.

17 So past few years, I witnessed
18 shootings, robbery, carjacking on my street, and
19 it's been very frustrating and upsetting to say
20 the least. And I understand that the City budget
21 is like a hundred million dollar a year on crime
22 preventions and program -- related programs, but
23 despite of all their spending, it doesn't seem
24 like things are getting any better. Depending on

1 the area, sometimes worse. Right? And it makes
2 me think that are we really investing in real
3 solutions, or are we just managing problems. And
4 it appears that we're just treating symptoms and
5 not the root causes. And to me, it's very clear
6 that the main root cause is missing values, and I
7 think really we need to start the conversation of
8 values and how do we instill this into our
9 children and young people, because I really hate
10 to see Chicago this -- I've been living here
11 since 1980, and just completely different than
12 when I got here. Really I am sad about it.
13 Thank you.

14 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARJO: Thank you for
15 your comment.

16 Our last speaker, Leo Quintero.

17 MR. QUINTERO: Before I go, I actually do
18 want to say, if anyone has a story, I'll gladly
19 give up my time as well.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you so much.
21 This is my son. His name is Adam Moreno. I got
22 to keep it quick. I need justice for him. So
23 hard to move on with life when you just saw your
24 son -- you just got off the phone with him, and

1 not only 20 minutes later, you get the call that
2 every mother hears. None of us get that text.
3 None of us have that voice.

4 His birthday was April 11th, and I
5 had to have his baby brother blow his candle out,
6 and that's not fair.

7 The streets, the City saw, but no
8 one is speaking.

9 I understand there has to be a
10 proper investigation, but we need answers as
11 mothers, because his third year is coming.

12 I'm functioning because I have to.
13 It is not fair for us mothers to live 50/50.
14 Why? He was just going to the store. That was
15 it. This is my son, and this is what they did to
16 him. They shot at him nine times. These people
17 didn't even know him. Why? One bullet got him
18 in his chest, and that bullet said, Come on, son,
19 let's go home, because you are my angel now.

20 I want to teach this earth what
21 it's about because it is not fair, because
22 there's no way the City just took my son.
23 Nothing the City -- because there's no answers.
24 No answers. And I get it. But there's no reason

1 why these papers are stacking homicide after
2 homicide after homicide.

3 It's a dead, buried graveyard here.
4 That's what I see here. You can't trust your own
5 child to walk to the store. I mean he wasn't
6 representing. Whatever his life was, it's no
7 one's business. But please help my son. Help my
8 son. Help all these mothers that need help,
9 because it is not fair. I'm living that mother's
10 worst nightmare. We all are. Please. Thank
11 you.

12 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARIJO: Thank you for
13 your comment. I appreciate all the speakers
14 today. We reached the end of the public comment
15 period. We value your input.

16 The next order of business is
17 approval of minutes. Before today's meeting,
18 draft minutes of the Commission's special meeting
19 held on April 2nd were shared with all
20 Commissioners.

21 Are there any corrections to the
22 draft minutes that have been circulated?

23 If there are no corrections, I move
24 to approve the minutes. Do I have a second?

1 COMMISSIONER PIEMONTE: Second.

2 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARJO: I have moved to
3 approve the minutes of the Commission's special
4 meeting held on April 2nd, and Commissioner
5 Piemonte has seconded. Is there any debate on
6 the motion? Hearing none, we will move to a
7 vote. Those in favor of adopting the motion to
8 approve the minutes of the Commission's meeting
9 held on April 2nd, please say aye.

10 (CHORUS OF AYES.)

11 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARJO: Those opposed,
12 please say nay.

13 (NO RESPONSE.)

14 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARJO: We have an
15 abstention from Commissioner Wortham.

16 The ayes have it, and the motion
17 carries. The minutes are approved.

18 Our next order of business will be
19 new business. The first item is the approval of
20 a series of closed meetings.

21 Section 2(c)(1) of the Illinois Open
22 Meetings Act allows the Commission to meet in
23 closed session to consider the appointment,
24 employment, compensation, discipline,

1 performance, or dismissal of specific employees.

2 The Open Meetings Act authorizes the
3 Commission to hold all these closed meetings for
4 up to three months.

5 I move to authorize closed meetings
6 for the maximum period allowed as permitted under
7 Section 2(c)(1) of the Illinois Open Meetings
8 Act. Is there a second?

9 COMMISSIONER GOTTLIEB: Second.

10 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARJO: I have moved to
11 authorize closed meetings for the maximum period
12 allowed as authorized by Section 2(c)(1) of the
13 Open Meetings Act. Commissioner Gottlieb has
14 seconded. Is there any debate on the motion?

15 (NO RESPONSE.)

16 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARJO: Hearing none.
17 Those in favor, please say aye.

18 (CHORUS OF AYES.)

19 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARJO: Those opposed,
20 please say nay.

21 (NO RESPONSE.)

22 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARJO: The ayes have
23 it, and the motion carries. The Commission is
24 authorized to hold closed meetings as authorized

1 by Section 2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act.

2 Next, we will discuss filling a
3 vacancy on the 12th District Council.

4 Under state law, when there is a
5 vacancy in an elected position in Chicago, the
6 Mayor has the power to fill the vacancy, but
7 under City ordinance, when there is a vacancy for
8 an elected District Council position, the
9 District Council and the Commission also play a
10 role in filling that vacancy.

11 When there is a vacancy on the
12 District Council, the remaining members of the DC
13 nominating -- DC nominate three candidates to
14 fill the vacancy, and then those District
15 Councilors send those names to the Commission.

16 The Commission then has 60 days
17 from the creation of the vacancy to select one of
18 the three candidates to recommend to the mayor to
19 appoint to the District Council, then the mayor
20 chooses someone to fill the vacancy.

21 Before we vote on a recommendation,
22 we'd like to thank you all, the candidates, who
23 applied to serve on the 12th District Council.

24 We hope all of you will stay involved in the work

1 of the 12th District Council and the CCPSA.

2 We also thank to 12th District
3 Councilors Michelle Page and Leo Quintero for
4 their work on nominating candidates.

5 I move that the Commission
6 recommend that the Mayor appoint Felipe Luna to
7 fill the 12th District Council vacancy.

8 Felipe Luna, Junior, is a
9 passionate community advocate and organizer with
10 over 30 years of experience, advocating for
11 housing, education, and public safety reform.

12 Mr. Luna was born and raised in the
13 Pilsen community that he calls home and hopes to
14 serve. He currently serves as management systems
15 specialist in the Illinois Department of Public
16 Health and has worked in IT -- in the IT sector
17 for over 20 years.

18 Mr. Luna is involved in his
19 community in impactful ways. He serves as a
20 community representative on Benito Suarez High
21 School's local school council and previously held
22 a similar position at Jungman Elementary School.

23 His interest in public safety led
24 him to organize his community in a variety of

1 creative works, including activating neighborhood
2 phone trees for communication and support and
3 canvassing his community to better understand its
4 safety needs and ideas.

5 Fel holds a master's of business
6 administration from National Lewis University and
7 a bachelor's of science in information systems
8 from DePaul University. Do we have a second?

9 COMMISSIONER DRIVER: Second.

10 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARIJO: Commissioner
11 Driver has -- Commissioner Driver has moved to
12 recommend that the Mayor appoint Felipe Luna to
13 fill the vacancy on 12th District Council, and
14 Commissioner Driver seconded -- Vice President
15 Rubi Navarijo recommended that the Mayor
16 appointment Felipe Luna to the vacancy, and
17 Commissioner Driver has seconded. Is there any
18 debate on this motion?

19 (NO RESPONSE.)

20 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARJO: Hearing none,
21 we will move to a vote. Those in favor of
22 adopting the motion to recommend that the Mayor
23 appoint Felipe Luna to fill the vacancy on the
24 12th District Council, please say aye.

1 (CHORUS OF AYES.)

2 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARIJO: The ayes have
3 it and the motion carries. Congratulations, Mr.
4 Luna. We will send your name to the Mayor as a
5 recommendation for filling the vacancy on the
6 12th District Council.

7 Reports and updates. Our next order
8 of business will be reports and updates.

9 First, we will get an update on the
10 goals the Commission has set for the Chief
11 Administrator of the Civilian Office of Police
12 Accountability, or COPA, the Police
13 Superintendent and the president of the Police
14 Board.

15 Every year in January, the
16 Commission sets goals and expectations for the
17 leaders of the three entities it oversees, the
18 Police Department, COPA, and the Police Board.

19 The ordinance that created the
20 Commission says that the Commission must set
21 goals at the beginning of each year, and then at
22 the end of the year do a performance assessment
23 where we look at how much progress they made
24 towards meeting the goals we set.

1 The goals typically reflect
2 important priorities of the Commission, or
3 highlight areas or work the Commission wants the
4 agency to focus on for a calendar year. The
5 goals include milestones that the Chief
6 Administrator, Superintendent, and President of
7 the Board will reach each quarter, including
8 steps they will take and information they will
9 provide to the Commission.

10 Tonight, we're reporting on what
11 these leaders gave the Commission about their
12 milestones for the first quarter of this year.
13 Commissioners then meet with the leaders to
14 discuss what they provided and to talk about
15 progress of the larger goals.

16 Commissioner Gottlieb, can you start
17 us off with an update of COPA's 2026 goals?

18 COMMISSIONER GOTTLIEB: Yes. Thank you,
19 Vice-President Rubi Navarijo.

20 In 2026, the Commission set three
21 goals for COPA. The first goal is about
22 improving disciplinary recommendations.
23 Consistency in disciplinary recommendations
24 ensures fairness, transparency, and public trust

1 in the system.

2 COPA will draft an internal
3 guidance that provides clear guidelines on how
4 staff should apply mitigating and aggravating
5 factors when making disciplinary recommendations.

6 In this quarter, COPA has been
7 meeting with police unions to ensure that any new
8 policies do not violate current collective
9 bargaining agreements.

10 We will keep the community updated
11 on this and will share these guidelines once they
12 can be shared publicly.

13 Goal two is to establish a COPA
14 Community Advisory Committee.

15 The purpose of this committee is to
16 get community input on COPA policy. This
17 collaboration promotes transparency, gives
18 residents a voice, and helps to build trust and
19 legitimacy in the accountability process.

20 In the first quarter, COPA
21 conducted outreach and created and distributed an
22 application for the Advisory Committee.

23 COPA is now accepting applications
24 to serve on this Community Advisory Committee.

1 COPA is looking to have a committee
2 that is representative of the City. This
3 includes having youth representation.

4 There are flyers with a QR code at
5 the front desk, or you can visit COPA's website
6 to get more information.

7 And last is goal three, which is to
8 hire community mediators who will participate in
9 the community mediation program.

10 COPA has been accepting
11 applications for mediators since March, and so
12 far has received 32 applications to join the
13 first COPA mediators. Applications were received
14 from all five police areas. Mediators will be
15 assigned to do mediation in the areas they are
16 from so they understand the community in which
17 they are serving.

18 Interviews will be done by the
19 selection committee this week and next week.
20 Training will take place in mid May.

21 To learn more about COPA's
22 mediation program and to learn how to become a
23 mediator, you can visit the COPA website.

24 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARJO: Thank you,

1 Commissioner Gottlieb.

2 Next we will discuss the goals for
3 the CPD Superintendent. Commissioner Driver.

4 COMMISSIONER DRIVER: For 2026, the
5 Superintendent's annual goals cover four main
6 topic areas and address a range of public safety
7 and accountability aims.

8 Goal one aims to strengthen CPD's
9 process for investigating crimes by increasing
10 public understanding of the investigative
11 process, making it easier for people to report
12 crimes and assist in solving cases and improving
13 the way CPD collects, analyzes, and stores
14 evidence.

15 In quarter one, CPD began
16 developing a clearance rate dashboard. The
17 dashboard will include content design to clearly
18 communicate how clearance rate data is defined,
19 collected, and analyzed.

20 CPD also shared that its forensic
21 laboratory accreditation assessment is scheduled
22 for June of this year.

23 Goal two focuses on implementing
24 CPD's community policing assessment, including

1 ensuring effective coordination with the CCPSA
2 by convening a working group representative of
3 CPD, the Commission, and District Councils.

4 In quarter one, CPD established a
5 working group made up of representatives from the
6 Office of Community Policing and Constitutional
7 Policing and Reform, Vice President Rubi
8 Navarijo, Commissioner Piemonte, and District
9 Councilors Carmelita Earls from the 15th District
10 Council, Carisa Parker from the 22nd District,
11 and Alex Perez from the 2nd District, and Jenny
12 Schaffer from the 19th District.

13 The working group met on April 17th
14 and reviewed the community policing assessment.

15 At the next meeting on May 15th,
16 they will identify areas of potential
17 coordination.

18 Goal three aims to ensure CPD
19 remains active -- remains an active part of the
20 City's crisis, assistance response, and
21 engagement steering committee.

22 CARE is a City program overseen by
23 the Mayor's Office of Health and Human Services,
24 and mostly operated by the Chicago Department of

1 Public Health with participation from other
2 agencies, public safety, and emergency response
3 partners.

4 This goal requires that CPD
5 representatives consistently and actively
6 participate in the Mayor's CARE Working Group and
7 any other relevant meetings in order to ensure
8 effective collaboration among all City partners.

9 Throughout the first quarter, CPD
10 reported that CPD representatives consistently
11 participated in a dozen CARE steering committee
12 meetings and other related meetings.

13 Goal four is about understanding
14 data that shows a recent increase in reported
15 incidents of CPD's use of force and firearm
16 pointing.

17 We will be providing an update on
18 this goal after we meet with the Chicago Police
19 Department in two weeks.

20 Finally, some of CPD's 2025 goals
21 were not completed by the end of last year.

22 CPD will continue to update the
23 Commission on these goals until they are
24 completed.

1 CPD published a completed workforce
2 allocation and community policing assessment and
3 recommendations.

4 CPD will continue to keep the
5 Commission updated on implementation of both of
6 these projects.

7 CPD also shared that the City-wide
8 launch of the Early Intervention system is
9 delayed until 2027 to accommodate for further
10 testing and system refinements.

11 Commissioner Minor and I will be
12 meeting with CPD Chief of Staff Dana O'Malley and
13 CPD Deputy Director Sarah Boyle in May to discuss
14 the Department's progress on these goals in more
15 detail.

16 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARJO: Thank you,
17 Commissioner Driver.

18 Commissioner Piemonte is now going
19 to provide an update on the goals for the Police
20 Board President.

21 COMMISSIONER PIEMONTE: Goal one is to
22 conduct a review and propose possible changes to
23 the Chicago Police Department rules of conduct.

24 By law, the Police Board has the

1 power to set rules and regulations for the
2 Chicago Police Department.

3 The Police Board hasn't updated the
4 rules and regulations since 2015.

5 In the first quarter, the Police
6 Board was supposed to meet with key stakeholders
7 to discuss initial thoughts on revisions to the
8 CPD rules of conduct.

9 Currently, the Commission is
10 reviewing the Police Board's recommendations and
11 will provide feedback in the coming weeks.

12 Goal two is agency collaboration
13 around policy recommendations. The objective of
14 this goal is to make policy recommendations to
15 CPD and COPA in the areas of investigations and
16 disciplinary recommendations in order to improve
17 the process for disciplining police officers.

18 In the first quarter, the Police
19 Board was supposed to identify potential policy
20 changes and propose recommendations.

21 The Police Board has power under
22 the ordinance to recommend policy changes for
23 both CPD and COPA.

24 The Police Board is looking at past

1 cases to see if there are areas in which it
2 believes both agencies can improve policy or
3 create new policies where none exists.

4 The Police Board is currently
5 undertaking a review of existing CPD and COPA
6 policy.

7 Any new policies or changes to
8 existing policies will be reviewed by the
9 Commission and will include an opportunity for
10 community feedback.

11 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARIJO: Thank you,
12 Commissioner Piemonte. Appreciate it.

13 I'm going to provide an update on
14 the action the Commission took at its April
15 special meeting related to CPD interaction with
16 federal immigration enforcement agencies and
17 agents.

18 At the April 2nd special meeting,
19 the Commission voted to recommend the Deputy
20 Inspector General for Public Safety conduct an
21 audit of CPD's implementation of the Welcoming
22 City Ordinance and related CPD directives.

23 The Commission sent a formal letter
24 with this recommendation to Deputy Inspector

1 General Tobara Richardson on April 3rd. Deputy
2 Inspector General Richardson responded to the
3 Commission's recommendation on April 15th,
4 writing that the OIG appreciated CCPSA's
5 recommendation, and that the OIG looks forward to
6 meeting with us to discuss the recommendation in
7 the future.

8 We also look forward meeting with
9 the Office of the Inspector General.

10 Commissioner Wortham will now
11 provide an update on traffic stops.

12 COMMISSIONER WORTHAM: Thank you. Good
13 evening.

14 So, again, a little over a year
15 ago, it was recommended that the issue of traffic
16 stops be added to the Consent Decree, which has
17 caused the Commission to engage in a working
18 process with the Illinois Attorney General's
19 Office, of course the Chicago Police Department,
20 and the Independent Monitor who is monitoring the
21 Consent Decree in an effort to work towards some
22 sort of agreement as to a stipulation related to
23 traffic stops and traffic stop policies.

24 As we've mentioned at all of our

1 meetings before, because of the nature of the
2 Consent Decree, the specifics of that work are
3 confidential, but we do want to make sure to keep
4 the public updated as to the progress of that
5 work. And I can tell you we are still working on
6 this. That the CPD policy work group here on the
7 Commission, which is President Terry and I, of
8 course working with our colleagues, continue to
9 meet with those parties in an effort to make
10 progress on a traffic stop policy.

11 With everything we do, community
12 input is the goal of our work. And so in that
13 vein, over the last, gosh, I guess year or so, we
14 have gathered community input on traffic stop
15 policies from, of course, these meetings.

16 We've also had two online forms for
17 people to share their views on traffic stop
18 policies. We've done some focus groups and
19 City-wide listening session.

20 So from that work, several themes
21 have emerged. Some residents do -- some response
22 to the different feedback opportunities have
23 indicated that -- I'm sorry. I missed a big
24 part.

1 So in the course of this work, the
2 Commission drafted a draft policy, and CPD has a
3 draft policy.

4 Those two documents were made
5 public, and they're similar in some ways and
6 different in some ways.

7 So, again, with the ongoing effort
8 to get community feedback, we've heard several
9 things. So some respondents say the Commission's
10 draft policy has too many restrictions on the use
11 of traffic stops. My mic went out.

12 Let me say that one again. Some
13 respondents say the Commission's draft policy has
14 too many restrictions on the use of traffic
15 stops. Some respondents say that the
16 Commission's draft includes some limitations on
17 when stops can be conducted, and some respondents
18 want additional guidance and limitations on the
19 use of traffic stops. Some people want the
20 draft pol -- some people say the draft policy is
21 fine, and it's good how it is, and some people
22 say that the changes to the policy alone will not
23 address the problems that they see with traffic
24 stops.

1 The moral of the story is, we have
2 varied feedback on the issue of traffic stops,
3 and our job is to continue to gather and listen
4 to that feedback, and hopefully work with the
5 parties we've been working with to come to the
6 right solution for the City as a whole.

7 So that is where we are on the
8 traffic stop policy.

9 I would just -- as I say every time
10 I give this update, I will encourage you all
11 continue to share your feedback, no matter what
12 your views are. We want to hear them. That's
13 traffic stops. Any questions? Wonderful.

14 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARJO: Thank you,
15 Commissioner Wortham.

16 Our next item is our special
17 subject matter hearing on victim services.

18 Before we begin, District Councilor
19 Quintero gracefully gave his time up to allow
20 folks to give their stories, so, District
21 Councilor Quintero, you have two minutes to give
22 your statement before we get started.

23 MR. QUINTERO: So I have the whole thing
24 written out. So thank you, all. Thank you for

1 coming out and telling your stories, for carrying
2 that weight, for being, you know, what we need in
3 order to create policy.

4 We're sorry that you've been left
5 to the side by a system -- by this system, by the
6 City, by CPD, by all of us. So, sorry.

7 I do want to acknowledge that all
8 of us have to blame because we are having this
9 conversation that's really late.

10 We've been talking to the Puga
11 family for almost three years now, along with
12 about 12 other families in my district.

13 So this is a heavy weight to carry.
14 It's something that we want to push for the
15 Chicago Victims Bill of Rights, something that
16 we've been pushing for.

17 I also want to thank you
18 Commissioner Minor for being a really important
19 partner in all of this.

20 But, honestly, like I said, this is
21 a late conversation. This is step one, and I
22 hope that everyone is listening. Everyone with
23 influence in the City. Everyone with influence
24 on policy, because the goal here isn't to

1 understand what is happening. We know what's
2 happening. The goal here is to create action,
3 and that action looks like policy changes, it
4 looks like families being supported and not being
5 left in the dark, having consistent updates. It
6 means having the resources they need when they
7 need them, not six months after the fact.

8 So I hope whether you are a
9 resource, whether you are someone that has direct
10 hand in creating policy, like our Commission,
11 that you please support families and Chicagoans
12 across the City when it comes to this. Thank
13 you.

14 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARIJO: Thank you,
15 District Councilor Quintero. Appreciate it.

16 We will now begin our special
17 subject matter hearing on victim services with a
18 focus on services for individuals who have been
19 victims of violent crime.

20 At this time, I'd like to ask our
21 four panelists to join us on stage. Once you all
22 take your seats, Commissioner Minor will take it
23 away.

24 Thank you for joining us today.

1 COMMISSIONER MINOR: God bless you all.
2 Thank you so much for being here in attendance.
3 I want to first recognize everybody who provided
4 public comment. I thank you for your bravery
5 today. I want you to know that your story
6 matters, and that this is not just to fill the
7 room, or we're not posturing to hear your stories
8 just for the sake of hearing you, but I hope that
9 you know that everything that you've said today
10 should be influencing this panel, as well as
11 their work in the future, as well as the
12 Commissioners that are on this Commission.

13 Now that we have your stories, and
14 we understand where the gaps in services are, I
15 hope and pray that it informs the way we approach
16 victim services in the future and in our work.
17 And now that you are in our space, I hope you
18 stay in our space. I hope you continue to share
19 your story because it matters. It is impactful,
20 and it helps us to move the needle forward.

21 I will be talking a little bit
22 about some of the goals of our panel today. I
23 also will be introducing our panelists so folks
24 know who is at the table and how we're going to

1 engage in this conversation, but I also want to
2 let you all know that this is a dream come true
3 for me, so I thank you all. Give yourselves a
4 round of applause being in this room. If you
5 want to celebrate, I think it deserves
6 celebration. I'll take it. Thank you. Because
7 my family has also been victimized by violence.
8 I live with a cold case. I feel that cold case
9 every birthday, every Father's Day. So I know
10 the impacts of wanting answers, wanting justice
11 and not being able to receive it. And that's why
12 I'm super committed to uplifting this
13 conversation and praying for justice for all of
14 the families.

15 With that being said, the purpose
16 of this hearing is to first understand the
17 current landscape of victim services in Chicago
18 so you understand what programs or resources or
19 supports exist today and how folks of survivors
20 of violence can navigate them.

21 There is a lot of victim services
22 on every level of local government right now, and
23 I want to make sure that folks know how to tap
24 into them, and I hope that we can think about

1 that when we're responding to questions today.

2 Second, we want to identify where
3 inequities and obstacles limit access or
4 effectiveness, particularly in communities that
5 experience disproportionate levels of trauma and
6 victimization.

7 Third. We want to explore how
8 government agencies, CPD and community partners,
9 can better collaborate, coordinate, and align
10 their efforts so that victims can have
11 consistent, compassionate, and timely support, no
12 matter where they live or where they turn to for
13 help or their immigration status.

14 Finally, we want to highlight best
15 practices on how we speak to victims, how we
16 engage with them, and how we also provide
17 services for them as well.

18 Our hope is that today's discussion
19 leads to practical insights, a shared
20 understanding, and concrete next steps, including
21 policy steps that can move Chicago forward
22 towards a more seamless, a more responsive, and a
23 more survivor oriented and centered system of
24 care and support.

1 Before I introduce our panelists,
2 there were some folks who spoke today and needed
3 a translator. Do we have translation services
4 available today? No, we do not. Okay. Is there
5 anyone who is willing to volunteer to translate
6 for folks who need support? In Spanish
7 specifically. Can you ask if anyone needs a
8 translator in Spanish? She's volunteering. I
9 just want to make sure everybody has access to
10 this information.

11 Now I will introduce our panelists.
12 So we have Amanda Vasquez. Can we please give
13 her a round applause? Amanda runs the victim
14 services of the victim service at Illinois
15 Criminal Justice of Information Authority which
16 is ICJIA for short.

17 We have Stephany Harris. Stephany
18 is a project manager and a victim services lead
19 for the Mayor's Office of Community Safety.

20 We have Dr. Blaire Lewis.
21 Dr. Lewis, hey. We will also do a round of
22 applause at the end as well because we got to
23 show love to our panelists. Dr. Lewis is a
24 clinical psychologist who works for Advocate

1 Healthcare and Trauma Recovery Center. Thank you
2 so much for being here.

3 And last, but not least, we have
4 Mike Milstein. Mike Milstein serves as Deputy
5 Director of the Office of Equity and Engagement
6 and -- at the Chicago Police Department.

7 Can we please give a round of applause
8 for our panelists?

9 I will turn the mic over to our
10 vice-president.

11 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARIJO: Thank you all
12 for joining us. We're looking forward to the
13 discussion.

14 Is there any Commissioner that
15 would like to kick this off with the first
16 question?

17 COMMISSIONER GOTTLIEB: Sure. Thank you so
18 much.

19 Just to start off, can each of you
20 briefly describe the primary work your
21 organization does around victim services and the
22 types of needs you are seeing more frequently
23 now?

24 DR. LEWIS: Hello, everyone. Again, I'm

1 Dr. Blaire Lewis. I go by Dr. Blaire for short.
2 I'm one of the regional managers for the Advocate
3 Trauma Recovery Center, and we are so grateful to
4 be here. So thank you all so much for the
5 invitation and also an opportunity to spotlight
6 the services or what I like to call solutions for
7 a lot of issues that we've been discussing today.
8 We offer services to survivors of violent crimes.
9 So there are a hosts of what that can look like
10 beyond assaults, domestic violence and the list
11 goes on. And also we are able to service people
12 who are ages 10 and older, and they also must
13 live within one of our service areas, including
14 Cook County. We service eight counties in
15 Northern Illinois, and we are able to service
16 survivors who experienced those violent crimes
17 within the past three years.

18 One of the caveats is, if you've
19 experienced the loss of an immediate family
20 member due to homicide, we do service you as
21 well, and there is no time frame on that.

22 What comes along with our services
23 falls under two umbrellas; behavioral health
24 services, which can include individual therapy,

1 group therapy, psychiatric services, as well as
2 social services, which includes a lot of case
3 management, intensive care.

4 One of the great things about our
5 services is that because we're grant funded -- a
6 little shout out to ICJIA for helping us with
7 that -- we are able to offer our services for
8 zero dollars. And so a lot of our patients that
9 we're servicing are underinsured, uninsured, or
10 have difficulties navigating that space, and we
11 are able to help them with that.

12 MS. HARRIS: Thank you. Good evening,
13 everyone. Thank you for having me. I just want
14 to thank everyone for the public comments.
15 Definitely was taking notes, literally texting
16 people wanting to connect, and so I just really
17 appreciate your bravery, and your resilience for
18 coming up here and sharing your story. It really
19 underscores the fact that, you know, much work to
20 be done.

21 I will go into who I am. My name
22 is Stephany Harris, and I'm victim services lead
23 at the Mayor's Office of Community Safety. I've
24 been with the City for about six years. Started

1 under the previous administration. Worked at the
2 Department of Public Health for a little while
3 and came back over to this administration. But
4 my primary role is I work with organizations who
5 are responding to incidents of violence and
6 providing support to those who are impacted for
7 fatal/non-fatal incidents across the City of
8 Chicago.

9 In my role, one of the first things
10 that I did and one of my biggest pieces of advice
11 that I will give to somebody in this work is just
12 to listen. From listening comes so much. From
13 listening, you get a better understanding of what
14 services, what supports are needed, what the gaps
15 are, and so from all of that, my work has just
16 really expanded, and I am part -- a big part of
17 what I do, I help to connect and coordinate. So
18 I have the organizations across the City that are
19 responding, and there's a lot of layers to a lot
20 of that. Hopefully, I will be able to go into a
21 little bit of that in my answer, but also working
22 with other City departments, working with the
23 Chicago Police Department, particularly the
24 Office of Victim Services led by Mike Milstein,

1 but also the Bureau of Detectives, and I want to
2 talk a little bit about their services and
3 supports and also really being able to do some
4 real connections and some services and support
5 based on what came out of these public comments
6 today. So I want to be able to do that. But
7 really just being able to see the gaps, see the
8 needs and create solutions, programs. It goes
9 into a lot of different things. I'm not going to
10 exhaust all of it in this introduction.
11 Hopefully, I can be able to give a little more
12 context in how that kind of goes into everything
13 we're going to be talking about today. Thanks.

14 MS. VASQUEZ: Good evening, everyone. I want
15 to extend a heartfelt thank you for this
16 invitation, and I'm really honestly humbled by
17 the bravery that I saw today. I really -- that's
18 all I can really say. It's humbling for you to
19 be in a space and hear stories. I just want to
20 acknowledge you all again.

21 So Amanda Vasquez. I do manage the
22 Center for Victim Studies. I personally come at
23 this work from a research lens, so that is a
24 portion of what my agency -- it is a mouthful --

1 the Illinois Criminal Justice Information
2 Authority or ICJIA for short.

3 We kind of have two -- I think
4 about it -- I describe it in two different kinds
5 of big chunks or big waves. We do a lot of grant
6 funding. That means that funding comes through
7 us from the federal government. We're able to
8 grant that funding out for the victim services.
9 So we have different pots of money. What that
10 looks like is services in communities, whether
11 that be for domestic violence, sexual assault,
12 human trafficking, survivors of community
13 violence, trauma recovery centers as well.

14 So that's the work that a lot of
15 folks -- so grant making. So I want to give that
16 part of my agency kudos, but in terms of research
17 and the lens I bring to that space is really to
18 understand the experiences of victims and
19 survivors. So what you all have shared today to
20 bring that back to really inform what needs are
21 on the ground, so we can really take that
22 information and have really informed grant
23 funding, victim services, data-driven funding.
24 This is where the funding needs to go.

1 We also do a lot of work around
2 program evaluation so that when folks are coming
3 through the doors, survivors are coming through
4 those doors, that they're getting quality
5 services. And the types of services that folks
6 are getting in communities are really meeting
7 their needs.

8 So we do work in that space to kind
9 of inform where funding should go, inform best
10 practices, and really do that by hearing from
11 victim service providers and by hearing from
12 folks who are living -- you know, living these
13 experiences, because they are the experts
14 creating their own stories. Thank you, all.

15 MR. MILSTEIN: Good evening. As mentioned,
16 my name is Mike Milstein. He/him pronouns.
17 Deputy Director with the Office of Equity
18 Engagement and Victim Services for the Chicago
19 Police Department.

20 First off, I want to thank you,
21 Commissioner Minor and the Commission, tonight
22 for holding this conversation and also just shout
23 out to all the District Council members for
24 advocating and pushing for this conversation. A

1 well overdue and much needed conversation to
2 have. Appreciate all the work that's gone into
3 this.

4 Talk a little bit about what CPD
5 does in our victim services team. We're not
6 necessarily a new division of CPD, but we have
7 been growing pretty rapidly over the last year
8 and a half.

9 We're bringing on non-police, so
10 people who are not police officers. These are
11 civilian, non-sworn victim specialists to provide
12 outreach to victims and survivors of different
13 types of crimes and victimizations. We have two
14 major focuses. One is on domestic violence,
15 victims and survivors of domestic violence, and
16 then another focus on victims and survivors of
17 non-fatal violent incidents. These would be
18 aggravated batteries and aggravated assaults
19 primarily.

20 The focus of our team is to provide
21 relatively rapid or quick outreach to a victim or
22 survivor. After a case report is generated, our
23 team can go in. They have access to case
24 reports, access to history. Reach out to that

1 individual, victim or survivor, have an initial
2 conversation with them, see what services or what
3 support that person may need. And really our
4 primary function is to help connect. Identifying
5 what needs may exist and letting that individual
6 know here are some community-based services,
7 partners in the community who would be a good
8 partner for them or a good connection for them to
9 have.

10 We recognize CPD is not a service
11 provider, per se. We are here to try to help use
12 the access that we have to make connections to
13 victims and survivors to the great work that's
14 already being done out in the community.

15 In situations where a victim or a
16 survivor may need some assistance from CPD, that
17 could mean being a liaison or getting access to a
18 conversation scheduled with a detective. Our
19 team can absolutely help facilitate those
20 conversations. If they need assistance
21 navigating the justice process, the justice
22 system, we can absolutely help in those
23 situations as well. We can also provide some
24 high-level safety planning or initial crisis

1 counseling, but we recognize that we are just one
2 piece of an ecosystem of our victim services and
3 it takes a village to do this work.

4 Again, appreciate the time for being
5 here tonight.

6 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARJO: Thank you so
7 much. Is there any commissioner that would like
8 to ask questions?

9 COMMISSIONER GOTTLIEB: So I do, I guess,
10 have another question. So we heard a lot of
11 stories tonight and certainly like -- the
12 discussion tonight is not at all about clearance
13 rates, per se, but I guess I'm interested in how
14 do we think about making sure -- or what are
15 things we can do to make sure that people's
16 experience while they're kind of waiting to kind
17 of figure out what happened is better than what
18 we heard today? What are some things we can do?

19 MR. MILSTEIN: I can start from CPD.

20 COMMISSIONER DRIVER: Sorry. I wanted to add
21 to that. I'm trying my best not to personalize
22 this, because I do have a lot of experience in
23 this personally and with my family.

24 Does the Department have a specific

1 protocol for follow-up? Like, is there a
2 timeline?

3 Ultimately, what all of us do as
4 public servants is customer service. Right? So,
5 like, in my private sector role, I have a certain
6 timeline I have to follow up with somebody or,
7 like, I get in trouble.

8 Is there any type of protocol in
9 place that the detective division or the victim
10 services division has a certain timeline?

11 Also as a person who's been a
12 victim of violent crime, sometimes it's hard to
13 even remember that you need to reach out to the
14 department. It would be very helpful if somebody
15 within the City government, like, proactively
16 reached out to victims. Are there certain
17 protocols in place to ensure that that happens?

18 MR. MILSTEIN: Yeah, maybe I will start with
19 that question. So I'll speak for the victim
20 services side first.

21 Our victim specialists are required
22 by policy to reach out to victim or survivor
23 within 72 business hours after an incident
24 occurs.

1 So, again, those are folks to go in
2 and see case reports as soon as we get access to
3 them. And our protocol is to reach out to a
4 victim or survivor within 72 hours. The
5 detective division -- I don't know for sure at
6 the moment. I don't work for the detective
7 division. But I don't know for sure if they
8 actually have existing protocol right now. I
9 know that they do their best to get to as many
10 cases as possible as quickly as they can, but we
11 can definitely follow up a specific answer for
12 you.

13 COMMISSIONER DRIVER: And your folks don't --
14 I know you interact with the detective division,
15 but you can't, like, advocate because it's like
16 inner department, right?

17 MR. MILSTEIN: We can advocate in the sense
18 if we are connected with the victim or survivor
19 who is looking to get in contact with their
20 detective or looking to share information and
21 they are willing to let us advocate for them,
22 yes, we can reach out to the detective division
23 to facilitate that.

24 COMMISSIONER DRIVER: Okay.

1 MS. HARRIS: I want to jump in as well. I
2 absolutely can and do advocate, and so I am
3 taking -- I'm taking these questions -- I'm
4 taking these questions back. In terms of the --
5 getting the responses -- I think you asked about
6 a timeline or something quantifiable. So one of
7 the things that -- one of the things that I do is
8 I do work with a small advisory group of gun
9 violence survivors in the City who are leading --
10 either they have their small grassroots
11 organizations because they lost a child and
12 working at the bank just doesn't resonate
13 anymore; they want to make an impact in the
14 community and help other survivors, or they're
15 just doing leadership work in the City.

16 One of the things we've been doing
17 is having conversations, at least quarterly, with
18 the Bureau of Detectives, and I remember one of
19 the first things that we were asking about is
20 around the special order for detectives, and that
21 quantification in terms of that follow-up. So
22 those are things that, as I'm hearing these
23 questions, as we're having these conversations
24 here in the public comment, really going back to

1 just be able to try to get a little bit more --
2 just kind of dig in a little bit more so that we
3 can find out those -- help those solutions.

4 COMMISSIONER DRIVER: Last follow-up. I
5 know -- I could be just, like, not in the loop.
6 I remember we were trying to get up to a certain
7 percentage. Are we at a point now that, like,
8 you feel comfortable saying like a hundred
9 percent of violent crime victims or victims in
10 general have some sort of advocate within 72
11 hours, or we try to get --

12 MR. MILSTEIN: We're still looking to hire.
13 We are actually bringing on 15 new people
14 tomorrow, so we're in the process of still
15 hiring. But I do anticipate hopefully by the end
16 of this year, we should be at that point. We're
17 much closer to a hundred percent.

18 COMMISSIONER DRIVER: And the people who
19 are -- because we're in the process of hiring up
20 and trying to get to a point where we have
21 City-wide coverage, is it a thing where like,
22 okay, I'm a victim, so I might not get 72 hours,
23 but I get five days or six days? Or are we
24 missing people who are just, like, because we

1 don't have the capacity right now, you're just
2 not going to have a victim service advocate?

3 MR. MILSTEIN: Yeah, so right now we are
4 prioritizing victimizations based on the UCR code
5 which right now our main focus is more violent
6 incidents, aggravated battery, and aggravated
7 assaults. We do have cases where someone may be
8 a victim of theft or criminal damage to property.
9 Right now we don't have capacity for victim
10 advocates for those individuals just because
11 we've been focusing primarily at this point on
12 more violent incidents impacting -- typically
13 like bodily harm types of incidents.

14 COMMISSIONER DRIVER: Thank you.

15 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARIJO: Commissioner
16 Wortham has a follow-up.

17 COMMISSIONER WORTHAM: This is super quick,
18 but I want to make sure I understand, and we're
19 clear. You said the word "advocate." My
20 understanding of your -- from your presentation
21 and what you guys do is what you said, it's the
22 resource referral. Right?

23 We know there are a lot of victim
24 advocate organizations who do that actual

1 advocacy, if you are talking about court or the
2 actual legal process as a victim or family member
3 of victim, but I just don't want the messaging to
4 place the responsibility on your team that
5 actually isn't yours.

6 Yes, perhaps you could liaise with
7 the detective division if you're working with a
8 family member who's just really having a hard
9 time, but that's not the core function of your --
10 that job. The core function is the outside
11 referrals to, like, the services, whether it's
12 housing or whatever someone might need; is that
13 correct?

14 MR. MILSTEIN: For the most part, yes. I
15 will say the term "advocacy" can be very broad.
16 There could be times where our team is doing more
17 advocate type of functions if that victim or
18 survivor is asking that from us.

19 Our main priority, we will try to
20 accommodate whatever the individual needs.

21 There are cases where we do have,
22 say, a survivor of domestic violence who is
23 asking to go to court for an order of protection.
24 Maybe they called service agencies. There is not

1 a lot of capacity at that moment.

2 We have been able to help someone
3 fill out paperwork for an order of protection,
4 walk them to the courthouse, help them get that
5 process.

6 Our main goal is still to refer
7 someone out to an agency as much as we can.

8 I will say we have a lot of
9 individuals who aren't always ready for that
10 connection either. And so those cases, too, we
11 want to offer what we can.

12 COMMISSIONER MINOR: So that point, I also
13 wanted to have a follow-up and talk about
14 interagency collaboration.

15 So I know that you right now are
16 onboarding for CPD in your case more folks to
17 work in the victim services space. So can you
18 talk what you do in a case where you do find your
19 advocates are at capacity? Who do you refer
20 those services out to? Also to that point, since
21 we are in the space talking about collaboration,
22 what does collaboration look like for all of your
23 agencies and what are some ways that
24 collaboration can be strengthened? What are you

1 currently working on to improve collaboration?

2 MR. MILSTEIN: Sure. On the referral piece
3 or question, in terms of agencies, the domestic
4 violence side, we will refer to any agency that's
5 listed under the network's repository or
6 membership directory. And then for other kinds
7 of violence incidents, we typically will work
8 with a lot of agencies that are working directly
9 with the City through Stephany's team or agencies
10 that are funded by the state or the CDPH.

11 MS. HARRIS: So in terms of -- lots going on
12 on my end in terms of collaboration,
13 coordination. So one of the things is I have for
14 the -- it will be about six years in June, a
15 City-wide victim services call, and this is a
16 call not only with -- it's mostly community-based
17 organizations that are funded to respond to
18 incidents of fatal and non-fatal violence and be
19 able to provide services. So those agencies are
20 on the call, as well as we also have CPD's Office
21 of Victim Services on, we have CPS on the call,
22 we have Mayor's Office's People With Disabilities
23 on the call. So there are other agencies and
24 community-based organizations that are really

1 collaborating and providing responses on
2 incidents that they responded to, connections
3 that they made, if they are having a hard time.
4 We also have hospitals. Hospital coordination is
5 really huge in this space, so I've been able to
6 collaborate with some hospitals.

7 There's definitely still work to be
8 done in that space, but definitely hospital
9 coordination is really important because when
10 someone gets victimized, oftentimes they go to
11 the hospital, and being able to have those
12 advocates, like at Advocate Trauma Center at
13 University of Chicago, those are some of the
14 really great hospitals that do have teams that
15 are hoping to collaborate, and they are also
16 making referrals to those community-based
17 organizations.

18 So in my own role, I'm a team of
19 one, but I do my best to try to bring everybody
20 together, but I also have to look at it from a
21 funding structure, because organizations are
22 funded by different entities. They can be funded
23 by the City, which is Chicago Department of
24 Public Health. They can be funded by the state.

1 They can have county -- Cook County Advisory
2 Council now has victim services and support for
3 survivors of violence.

4 And so my focus is Chicago, the
5 City of Chicago, and so being able to pull those
6 organizations together and just really help them
7 to just kind of show up so they can coordinate
8 and collaborate. So that's one way.

9 Another way is really looking at
10 the gaps that do exist with collaboration and
11 coordination. So one of the things that I've
12 seen is capacity. Capacity is a huge issue, not
13 only at the organizational level, but even at the
14 funding level. When I am supporting funders that
15 are managing the contracts and they're focused on
16 those contracts, their teams are small, but there
17 needs to be one oversight, support, and
18 coordination of all of the organizations that are
19 funded at the ground level making sure that
20 they're fully supported, making sure that the
21 victim advocates who are responding, that their
22 capacities is there at their organizations; that
23 they're taking care of themselves; that their own
24 trauma is being addressed so they can really be

1 able to show up in a way that survivors deserve.
2 It is really multi-layer.

3 There's a lot of layers of
4 different types of collaboration, but one of the
5 things that I am really working to do is get at
6 the root causes of all the gaps and all the
7 things that I'm seeing, and now being able to
8 pull folks together from all places across the
9 City, different departments, community-based
10 organizations, even looking at starting up some
11 task forces. I got a survey for survivors that
12 we're about to really put out to really get that
13 feedback and have that feedback loop. So there's
14 a ton of just different things going on in terms
15 of collaboration.

16 DR. LEWIS: So I heard this was mentioned
17 earlier. I think it was on the table that it
18 takes a village, and we have a clear example here
19 today that we cannot do this in a siloed
20 approach. We cannot do it as a single person.
21 We cannot do it as a single unit. Can't do it as
22 a single family. We're going to need something
23 from one another in order to accomplish the goal.
24 I bring that up because one of the goals for the

1 trauma -- Advocate Trauma Recovery Center is we
2 aim to do what we do well. We cannot do it all.
3 So if you are an organization or you're a group
4 that specifies within a certain area, rock that
5 area, because the goal is whatever we cannot do
6 or do not do, we can partner with someone else
7 who does that other area well.

8 So our second goal is in terms of
9 partnership and collaboration, and I use those
10 words intentionally, is that we don't only want
11 to just refer. I mean there's a lot of referrals
12 going back and forth, but how could we actually
13 make sure that you are having a smooth experience
14 during that referral process, because it's very
15 easy to just give you a number, very easy to just
16 give you a flyer, but it becomes a little wonky
17 when you got a whole stack of flyers and cards
18 that you have to go through, and you're trying to
19 navigate a lot, especially after a traumatic
20 experience.

21 Our goal is to help you walk
22 through that process with you, instead of having
23 to send you out to do it alone.

24 So when we are looking for

1 collaborators or partners, we're looking for
2 folks who we can link up hands with and say we're
3 going to work with these same people, these same
4 families together, instead of just shooting more
5 information in front of their faces.

6 The last thing is, I know that we
7 all have recognized and talked about it a little
8 bit earlier. A lot of changes happen in Chicago
9 frequently. It's ongoing. Changes in funding,
10 changes in organizations, changes in program,
11 changes in leadership, and the list goes on.
12 Every single change that happens has a dynamic or
13 ripple effect into another area, which means we
14 always have to continue to have these
15 conversations of who is still running, are you
16 still running the same way, who are you still
17 targeting. I know that sometimes we get a
18 little -- you know, we start to tune it out and
19 get accustomed to what you are expecting each
20 group to say, but if you come in with a fresh ear
21 and fresh eyes each time, it opens up an
22 opportunity for you to recognize the shifts and
23 changes that are happening within your community
24 or your surrounding area.

1 I will always recommend -- the same
2 thing we do with the Advocate Trauma Recovery
3 Center -- to go out to the community and touch
4 base with the grassroots organizations that are
5 there, what's new coming in, what is old that has
6 shifted, or even what needs to change within.

7 MS. VASQUEZ: Yeah, just thinking about
8 collaboration at ICJIA, I think -- kind of think
9 about it in a couple of different layers or
10 buckets, if you will.

11 Two things I will highlight really
12 quickly before focusing on one thing in
13 particular that kind of resonates with what you
14 said around task forces and bringing folks
15 together. But one is we do have research
16 partnerships. Why is that important? That kind
17 of ties into capacity building as well. And so
18 we are a research arm, and we strive to
19 collaborate with community-based organizations,
20 big and small, so that we can help them tell
21 their stories, so we can show program
22 effectiveness. So we try to, you know,
23 collaborate, reach out in that way and really
24 have as involved -- I really call it a

1 partnership. It is not that we come in, and we
2 do an evaluation and here's what we need you to
3 do. No. Let's figure out how we can work
4 together to understand the program, how it works,
5 the outcomes we want to reach, and how we can
6 kind of get you to where you need to go and kind
7 of really working in that space.

8 That's, I think, where some of that
9 capacity building comes in. So we try to do
10 capacity building in that way. So you need some
11 help with data so you can apply for a grant to
12 help show that there is support, there is a need
13 in your community, that's something that we can
14 help support you with, so we will do it in that
15 way, but our agency also has an initiative that's
16 called Institute to Innovate where we have a lot
17 of grassroots organizations that may not be
18 ready. They're kind of primed. They know
19 there's a need in the community. They've
20 mobilized, but they need help with that grant
21 application process. And so I'm not an expert in
22 that space, but it is a really, you know, great
23 program. I've heard really great things about
24 it, and it is really striving to lift up folks

1 who know there is a need in the community but
2 need that support in terms of applications, what
3 is a fiscal agent, all of those words that people
4 who have been in this funding space, and if you
5 are applying for grants you know about.

6 So we're trying to fill some of
7 those gaps because we recognize there's a lot of
8 really great work happening, and we want to have
9 that government grassroots community-based
10 organization partnership and really lift up those
11 community orgs.

12 On the note of task force, I think
13 ICJIA, one thing about collaboration, I think we
14 do well, we're known for, is bringing people to
15 the table.

16 We do get -- there's legislation
17 that's often passed -- I'm going to say often.
18 Every now and then, you know, there's an issue
19 that's facing the state. It could be facing the
20 City as well. We actually have a task force
21 right now. That's the task force on missing and
22 murdered Chicago women and girls. So I think
23 that's in its third year right now, but we are
24 bringing so many folks to that table to have

1 these difficult conversations. You know,
2 bringing CPD, bringing the medical examiner's
3 office in Cook County, bringing researchers,
4 bringing community providers together to talk
5 through these pieces. And so we provide the
6 administrative support around that piece, but we
7 bring the research. We can also bring folks that
8 are in that grant space together and have policy
9 folks, too. So that is, I think, one kind of key
10 way in which we can sometimes bring folks
11 together from these different systems, at the
12 state level -- you know, state level, local
13 level, community level, to really have these
14 tough conversations.

15 COMMISSIONER PIEMONTE: Thank you. Please
16 reflect on the systematic or structural
17 challenges that impede effective and timely
18 victim services delivery.

19 MS. HARRIS: One of the first things that
20 came to mind when you said that was training.
21 For victim advocates -- and I kind of think of
22 the analogy, you know, you put your mask on first
23 before you help the person that also needs a mask
24 to be put on.

1 If you are struggling to breathe or
2 you have holes in your mask, how can you help
3 someone else?

4 So what that translates to is
5 victim advocates don't have the proper capacity
6 support; they don't have the proper training.
7 How can they show up in the community in the way
8 that survivors deserve? And so being able to
9 ensure that training is standard -- not only
10 standardized, but trauma-informed, and that is
11 quality that is happening across the board.

12 So that's one of the things that
13 I've been really interested in.

14 There are some really great
15 trainings out here in the City. There are
16 organizations that do wonderful training. They
17 have -- there are training academies, and even
18 working with some partners to work on a micro
19 certification for victim advocates at Malcolm X
20 College. The thing is making sure it's
21 universal. Making sure for every great training,
22 that every single victim advocate in the City of
23 Chicago you has access to that training and that
24 is mandatory.

1 So we have to look at one of the
2 mandates that organizations are putting on to
3 ensure that victim advocates are getting that
4 training. And so making sure that that is really
5 at the forefront, because if a victim advocate is
6 showing up in the way a survivor deserves, the
7 services are going to be quality, they are going
8 to get what they want, and they're going to be
9 able to advocate for them and be those guides in
10 the way that they need.

11 So that was one of the first things
12 that came up. There are plenty of other
13 structural needs and things that I would love to
14 go into, but I will let someone else answer.

15 DR. LEWIS: I would have to second that.
16 Probably we can pull out the whiteboard and start
17 adding to the list.

18 I want to speak about this from a
19 therapeutic perspective. From the Advocate
20 Trauma Recovery Center's perspective, I always
21 have to include the element of behavioral health.
22 When we look at structures or systems, we must
23 also recognize that there's a family system that
24 sometimes clashes with all these other structures

1 that we have in place to assist in navigating
2 such spaces. The reason I say that they clash is
3 because the priorities are handled differently.
4 And so along the same line of training, what I
5 would add is although we are working to improve
6 having multiple spaces that are trauma informed,
7 I would like to add the element that we need to
8 prioritize becoming a healing center. The reason
9 for that is when you have a family system that is
10 experiencing immense pain, approaching it as its
11 business every day isn't as useful and doesn't
12 necessarily allow for the proper message to
13 translate, which may result in additional
14 friction happening between these two entities
15 that must interact and work with each other to
16 receive or get to the results that are needed on
17 both ends. And so I would just highlight that
18 there is a major need for healing-centered and
19 trauma-informed, which is not the same thing,
20 conversations, trainings, information, and shifts
21 to take place, and I don't know if the
22 conversation will get there today. But just a
23 little bit of tip point here around that, that is
24 not just a one-day training; that is something

1 that has to happen continuously.

2 It is a mindset shift. It requires
3 you to have to look at life differently and treat
4 one another differently.

5 MR. MILSTEIN: Absolutely echo both comments
6 there.

7 I think one thing that I would add
8 that definitely impedes effective and timely
9 ability to support someone is just the -- in many
10 cases -- lack of resources available. I want to
11 note, I think the network highlighted that
12 housing was the number one resource that a victim
13 or survivor is looking for. There's really just
14 not enough sometimes. And I think the hardest
15 part for any victim advocate or specialist is
16 having someone who says, I need a safe place to
17 stay tonight, and us to say, I don't have
18 anything available for you, and that's just a
19 hard reality that exists right now.

20 But I think that's where we
21 definitely want to see more attention focused to,
22 you know, what are the different solutions -- I
23 don't want to call them solutions, you know,
24 necessarily, but resources that we can't provide

1 to someone because right now there just aren't
2 enough for, you know, all the victims that we
3 have.

4 MS. VASQUEZ: And I will add on, I think, a
5 little bit. One thing I was thinking about as
6 everybody was talking -- and I agree with
7 everything that has been said -- but I think it
8 is sometimes -- especially when there's limited
9 resources, and we talked a little bit about, you
10 know, staff, I think about their well-being and
11 also things like burn-out and that kind of thing
12 that can kind of get tied up into some of this,
13 which can lead to some levels of transactional
14 interactions, and that's really what we kind of
15 want to avoid, and that's why training is so
16 important. It may or may not be intentional, but
17 it can be something that happens, and we can
18 protect against it through these different
19 training opportunities.

20 And one thing I wanted to highlight
21 kind of as well in terms of thinking about
22 effective and timely victim services is just this
23 idea of meeting survivors where they're at,
24 because just because this service is available

1 here, and you are reaching out, it might not be
2 the right time for that particular individual.
3 They may need several reach-outs. So just kind
4 of being mindful.

5 So it's being timely, but I would
6 say being right-sized, if you will. Being there
7 -- I don't want to say right time, right place,
8 but it's that part of, you know, needing to
9 continue to offer that, you know, helping hand.
10 So it's like you make that one call, but maybe
11 that person needed three calls, you know.
12 They're still contemplating kind of getting that
13 support. So I think it's sort of this level of
14 follow-through.

15 So we want to -- we don't want to
16 be in a space of checking a box like, you know, I
17 made a call or I did these -- did these things,
18 like, okay, maybe that person wasn't ready for
19 that. Maybe I'll try again later. And really
20 thinking holistically, yeah, I think about what
21 the whole context is. So, yeah.

22 I think it's thinking about the
23 whole entire person and what it is like to
24 experience to be in that space.

1 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARIJO: Thank you for
2 that answer.

3 Commissioner Minor, before you
4 continue, CPD Victim Services wanted me to make
5 an announcement. I notice people are leaving.
6 If you are a victim that requires assistance or
7 follow-up, CPD Victim Services invites you to
8 visit them in the back.

9 Go ahead, Commissioner Minor.

10 COMMISSIONER MINOR: Thank you. I actually
11 wanted to uplift some special interest groups
12 right now, especially in the political climate.

13 One of the things that me and my
14 fellow Commissioners were talking about was that
15 DV courts, there was some federal immigration
16 presence there, and then one of the commenters
17 also talked about the change in language for U
18 visas and how that's impacting folks impacted by
19 violence.

20 I'm wondering for anyone who's
21 concerned about the political climate, what do
22 your services look like for them that -- folks
23 that might be hesitant to go out of their
24 communities to get support? And I also want to

1 note, does anyone actually serve those that have
2 been wrongfully convicted of a crime? That's a
3 wonderful question I was asked by the audience,
4 and I really want to uplift that here.

5 MR. MILSTEIN: I guess I can start from CPD.
6 Obviously, we are aware that there was federal
7 immigration enforcement at the DV courthouse, and
8 that has a huge impact on anyone's comfort level
9 of going in person.

10 I know DV court does offer virtual
11 options, and so we have -- I know many of the DV
12 advocates and partners who are in this space also
13 continue to push and be in touch with the chief
14 judge for domestic violence division and ensuring
15 there are access and virtual options available,
16 especially for individuals who are not
17 comfortable going in person, and then for the --
18 I appreciate the comment that was provided --
19 earlier public comment.

20 Right now, victim services, our
21 team is not involved in obtaining a visa process.
22 That's an area we are looking to try to address a
23 little bit more. That's currently handled by a
24 separate section within CPD that our team is not

1 currently involved in.

2 MS. HARRIS: I can jump in regarding
3 wrongfully convicted people.

4 People who are victimized,
5 absolutely when it comes to supporting survivors,
6 at least from an organization perspective, they
7 do not -- it really doesn't matter. It doesn't
8 matter. You know, victimization is
9 victimization. Is really all around being
10 survivor centered, being healing centered.

11 Now, if there are services and
12 support -- victim advocates, they provide victim
13 services related to the victimization themselves,
14 but they're really guides. It can be something
15 that someone needs support that has really
16 nothing to do with the victimization itself, but
17 they may just need some additional support. So
18 maybe that is, you know, advocacy. Maybe that is
19 legal services. Definitely they are able to help
20 connect. If they can't provide that service
21 directly, they can provide connections and
22 referrals for people if they are both wrongfully
23 convicted, and there is an advocacy organization
24 that can kind of help on that end. While that

1 victim advocate organization doesn't do that
2 directly, they can help connect them to an
3 advocacy organization that can help with anything
4 related, for instance, to their wrongful
5 conviction.

6 And so it really -- it really
7 doesn't matter. Any and everything. People
8 deserve -- regardless of their past, they deserve
9 healing, they deserve love, they deserve care,
10 they deserve resources.

11 DR. LEWIS: One of the things that we often
12 see with survivors is when they're navigating
13 systems is there's a lot of proof in
14 documentation and papers and show us this, show
15 us that.

16 One thing we don't do at the
17 Advocate Trauma Recovery Center is require such
18 documentation, partly because we are grant
19 funded, and so we're free. We don't need an
20 insurance card, and we are also working with
21 survivors who often are experiencing or in the
22 same conditions of the traumatic event of the
23 reason why they are seeing us.

24 So it is not uncommon, for example,

1 if someone were experiencing human trafficking,
2 that they would not have access to such documents
3 on a frequent basis like an ID, for example.

4 And so for the reasons for that, we
5 don't want these entities or these areas to be a
6 barrier to our services, and so it is our hope
7 and always our desire to remove barriers to
8 services, instead helping them receive or get
9 access to the things that they need. Kind of
10 working the flip way around that we are
11 accustomed to.

12 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARJO: Thank you.
13 Commissioner Gottlieb is going to ask the last
14 question, and then Commissioner Minor is going to
15 go ahead and close us out. You're asking the
16 last question. He is going to be the last
17 Commissioner right now.

18 COMMISSIONER GOTTLIEB: Thank you. So, in
19 his opening kind of remarks, DC Quintero
20 mentioned the idea of a Victims Bill of Rights.

21 From each of your perspectives,
22 what are the kinds of things that victims should
23 be entitled to and what are the kinds of things
24 that could potentially go into something like

1 that?

2 DR. LEWIS: Instant thought, informed
3 consent. I know we are accustomed to hearing
4 such a phrase. But true story. I witnessed a
5 patient experience care at one healthcare
6 facility, and this facility was amazing at
7 highlighting consent.

8 They allow for the patient to make
9 a decision of what type of care, what they want
10 to participate in, and what they did not want to
11 participate in.

12 The same patient went to another
13 facility, and this facility was great at informed
14 consent. What's the difference? Informed
15 consent not only allows for the patient to make
16 the decision on what they want to participate in
17 versus not, but they give them information, they
18 educate them on what the decisions could entail,
19 what the ripple effect might be, and allow them
20 to know how these decisions will play out in
21 their care.

22 There's a huge difference between
23 saying you can choose between A and B, it's up to
24 you, and shrug your shoulder, or tell you, This

1 is what A means, this is what A can do for you,
2 this is what B means, and this is what B can do
3 for you.

4 I would highlight informed consent
5 all day.

6 MS. VASQUEZ: I think you kind of actually
7 took both of my ideas from me, to be honest. One
8 of them -- kind of, I guess, piggybacking on that
9 is that transparency piece. I think just -- and
10 that's a little bit I feel like I heard in public
11 comment, too, is just wanting to know what is
12 going on, the why, the who, the how. Sometimes
13 there aren't always things that we can do. There
14 are internal/external, all of these different
15 types of constraints, and I try to do this in my
16 practice generally, and I am a proponent of it
17 clearly, but just explaining what is going on.
18 Even if you don't have -- I don't have an answer
19 right now. I haven't heard back. I don't know,
20 you know.

21 And then I think just -- I'm just
22 thinking about the timeliness component of it.
23 Just kind of making good on commitments because
24 that kind of helps to prevent that

1 re-victimization.

2 So I'm going to go with
3 transparency, consent, and importance of
4 decisions and options for survivors.

5 MR. MILSTEIN: I would absolutely echo both.
6 I think one thing I would add, too, is access to
7 options in easily digestible ways.

8 I think a lot of times there are a
9 lot of great resources out there, organizations,
10 and sometimes it can be very overwhelming,
11 especially for someone who has just had a really
12 horrible traumatization.

13 So I don't know what this looks
14 like in practice, per se, but just some way to
15 really make it easy to understand what exactly
16 are someone's options, where can they go for help
17 or support, as digestible as possible.

18 MS. HARRIS: All really, really great
19 answers. So definitely echo everything that
20 everyone else has said.

21 In addition to that, they really
22 do -- there really does need to be a commitment
23 to every survivor has the right to heal. Right?
24 They have the right to -- even if nothing is --

1 the answer isn't there -- right -- or they are
2 not able to get the resolution that they need,
3 they have a right to constantly have someone
4 there guiding them, holding their hand, providing
5 them a connection to the community, to resources,
6 to healing, so that while they are waiting for
7 whatever the resource, the service, working
8 through the system, that they at least have a
9 common connection.

10 There's also -- I believe the
11 Office of the Attorney General has a crime
12 Victims Bill of Rights, or they have a -- yeah,
13 they have crime victims rights. So really
14 leveraging that, looking at that as an initial
15 tool, and then really just building upon that.
16 But definitely echo everything that everyone has
17 contributed to that answer.

18 COMMISSIONER MINOR: Thank you, all, so much.
19 And so Leo opened up the conversation by saying
20 like this is the first step, so this question is
21 a goal to get us to the second step. So I would
22 love if all of you all can think about, you know,
23 what is -- what immediate action related to
24 collaboration, policy, or practice that could be

1 implemented or changed in the next year that can
2 improve victim services in Chicago?

3 MR. MILSTEIN: I can start from a CPD
4 perspective. Enhancing and improving our timely
5 response, both from a professional standpoint and
6 also detective division. Being able to respond
7 and support an individual as quickly as we can,
8 give a full amount of support as quickly as
9 possible.

10 MS. HARRIS: Trying to pick which one.
11 Right, all of them. I would say really -- we
12 really have to address the layered capacity
13 issues, whether it be the capacity of the
14 services themselves, kind of connected to the
15 lack of resources that Mike mentioned related to
16 just kind of some structural issues.

17 Capacity within -- it really starts
18 at the top. Capacity with those that are
19 providing the resources, so at the funder level.
20 Capacity within organizations and the victim
21 advocates, and the number of victim advocates.
22 So really taking a deep dive into some of those
23 capacity issues, some of those structural issues.
24 Coming up with an oversight strategy.

1 So one of the things that I've seen
2 is organizations that get funded. Right? They
3 get funded, and they are responding and providing
4 services and support, and then things -- you
5 know, things may happen. Sometimes survivors may
6 not want the services right away. Sometimes
7 they're not able to get a connection just
8 because, you know, different things. Maybe they
9 weren't able to meet them at the hospital. Maybe
10 because they just didn't know them. Really being
11 able to look at what are some of the gaps, what
12 are some of the access issues for survivors, and
13 then having a feedback loop, being able to -- one
14 of the things I think I briefly mentioned was a
15 survey. Being able to have that feedback loop so
16 that every survivor who is victimized has a way
17 to complete a survey or some sort of feedback
18 loop to say, Hey, I still need this type of
19 support. This is where I was victimized, or this
20 is where my loved one was victimized, and these
21 are the types of supports and the services I
22 need. Really being able to look at the lack of
23 capacity, what are some of those issues there,
24 the oversight, ensuring that not only that

1 training is there, but that when folks are going
2 on the ground, that those services are being
3 provided on a long-term basis. So really coming
4 up with the whole strategy and framework around
5 addressing capacity issues and the oversight
6 factor.

7 MS. VASQUEZ: So you had me at "survey,"
8 because I'm clearly a researcher, but I think
9 that has me -- originally, I was thinking of one
10 thing, so I might sneak in two things now.

11 I wonder even, you know, an
12 immediate thing could be to do a comprehensive
13 survey in the City. Maybe there can be some
14 cross-collaboration to really understand what are
15 the needs of, you know, victims and survivors in
16 the City of Chicago. And I can talk everyone's
17 ear about, yes, there's some research, but it
18 doesn't tell us enough about what was going on in
19 the City, but that could present, I think, a real
20 opportunity. But I think also I would say
21 just -- I represent a state agency, and we are
22 statewide, but I think one thing that we -- we
23 have a lot of relationships with other state
24 agencies and less so with our City partners. We

1 do have a lot of victimizations. A lot of our
2 funding goes -- I think just stronger
3 collaborative relationships, whether that is with
4 the Mayor's Office, like ICJIA, whether that is
5 with folks over at CPD. I think we get those
6 things moving and make some real change.

7 DR. LEWIS: My brain has been going like this
8 thinking about this question. So within the
9 Advocate Trauma Recovery Center, we always
10 highlight accountability. If we say we're going
11 to do A, B, C, D. It is our goal to execute
12 that, and that comes along with being
13 trauma-informed. Allowing the survivor to know
14 this is what you should expect from us and us
15 actually following through. This is actually
16 following the same model of our enterprise
17 Advocate Health. Enterprise is holding up
18 accountability.

19 What I would say from an external
20 perspective or for the City of Chicago is really
21 highlighting that commitment all the way through.

22 We've seen a lot of plans and
23 initiatives and strategies come together, and I
24 think we're great at that. Right? And then

1 sometimes we kind of sit, and we're waiting, and
2 we get to this muddled spot where we're not quite
3 sure how far into the progress we've gotten, or
4 if it has been followed all the way through.

5 So I'd like to really see us do
6 better with that commitment all the way through
7 to the end.

8 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARJO: Thank you so
9 much. Commissioner Minor, I appreciate you for
10 closing us out.

11 Thanks again to all of our
12 panelists. What a great discussion. We really
13 appreciate it.

14 The Commission looks forward to
15 continuing to collaborate with you all. I know
16 we are pretty excited about the follow-up to this
17 issue.

18 The information we heard today will
19 help inform the Commission's work, including
20 annual goals and strategic priorities.

21 We will now move on to adjournment.
22 If you'd like to connect with the Commission via
23 social media, you can search us on Facebook at
24 Community Commission for Public Safety and

1 Accountability. Our Instagram handle is
2 @CCPSA_Chicago. Twitter as well, CCPSA_Chicago.
3 Our YouTube is ChicagoCCPSA, all one word.

4 Our next regular meeting will be
5 held Thursday, May 28th, at 6:30 p.m. at the
6 Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 North Knox
7 Avenue.

8 Thank you for joining us tonight.
9 We hope to see you on May 28, and we hope you
10 will stay engaged and encourage people you know
11 to join us in the work. This meeting is now
12 adjourned.

13 (Proceedings adjourned at
14 8:45 p.m.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

Re: CCPSA Public Meeting
April 30, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

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 ** day of ** 2026.

MAUREEN A. WOODMAN, CSR
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