

COMMUNITY COMMISSION for PUBLIC SAFETY and
ACCOUNTABILITY

SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING

Thursday, April 2, 2026, 6:30 p.m.
Thomas Kelly College Preparatory High School
4136 South California Ave.
Chicago, Illinois

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APPEARANCES:

President Remel Terry
Vice President Angel Rubi Navarajo
Commissioner Sandra Wortham
Commissioner Aaron Gottlieb
Commissioner Abierre Minor
Commissioner Gina Piemonte
Commissioner Anthony Driver (Virtually)
Executive Director Adam Gross

1 PRESIDENT TERRY: Good evening. Good
2 evening. Good evening, everyone. Thank you for
3 your patience. If we can all find a place to be
4 seated. Thank you all so much. We're going to
5 get started.

6 The April 2 Special Meeting of the
7 Community Commission for Public Safety is called
8 to order. Please place your cell phones on
9 silent mode. Remain seated and refrain from
10 using small hand-held devices in any way that
11 interferes with anyone's ability to see or hear
12 the proceedings.

13 We'll begin by calling of the roll
14 to establish a quorum.

15 Commissioner Driver. Commissioner
16 Gottlieb.

17 COMMISSIONER GOTTLIEB: Present.

18 PRESIDENT TERRY: Commissioner Minor.
19 Commissioner Piemonte.

20 COMMISSIONER PIEMONTE: Present.

21 PRESIDENT TERRY: Vice President Rubi
22 Navarijo.

23 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARIJO: Present.

24 PRESIDENT TERRY: President Terry is present.

1 Commissioner Wortham.

2 COMMISSIONER WORTHAM: Present.

3 PRESIDENT TERRY: With five members of the
4 Community Commission for Public Safety and
5 Accountability present, we have a quorum, and we
6 can conduct the Commission's business.

7 We also have Commissioner Driver who
8 would like to join virtually, so do we have a
9 motion for --

10 COMMISSIONER GOTTLIEB: I move. I move to
11 have Commissioner Driver virtually.

12 PRESIDENT TERRY: Is there a second?

13 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARIJO: I second that
14 motion.

15 PRESIDENT TERRY: All in favor?

16 (CHORUS OF AYES.)

17 PRESIDENT TERRY: Commissioner Driver, you
18 are now able to participate virtually.

19 Will you say something so that we
20 know we can hear you?

21 COMMISSIONER DRIVER: Can you all hear me?

22 PRESIDENT TERRY: Yes. Thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER DRIVER: I believe you guys can
24 hear me. It was glitching. You asked me to say

1 something, right?

2 PRESIDENT TERRY: Yes. We can hear you.
3 Thank you.

4 We want to acknowledge that this
5 meeting falls during Passover and on Holy
6 Thursday, and we recognize that many members of
7 the Jewish and Christian communities could not
8 attend tonight's meeting. We deeply regret
9 scheduling an important meeting at this time that
10 conflicts with major religious holidays. We need
11 to be respectful and inclusive of all who want to
12 attend Commission meetings, and we will ensure to
13 do so moving forward. Although we worked to find
14 another date, we wanted to ensure that this
15 meeting happened with urgency.

16 The meeting is being recorded and
17 will be posted on our website within 24 hours for
18 those who are unable to attend.

19 Now, I'd like to acknowledge some
20 people in the room. I want to acknowledge
21 Alderman Napoli, Cook County Commissioner Alma
22 Anaya, Assistant Deputy Mayor Jason Sanford.
23 We'd also like to acknowledge Executive Director
24 of the Illinois Accountability Commission, Hina

1 Mahmood.

2 So our staff members of the Chicago
3 City Council, Committee on Immigrant and Refugee
4 Rights, they also have tables near the sign-in
5 area, and they are here collecting information
6 about federal immigration enforcement activities
7 in Chicago, and you can share information with
8 them if you would like.

9 COPA is also here, if you have any
10 reports of police misconduct.

11 We'd also like to acknowledge that
12 we are grateful to have those who have come to
13 the Commission meetings regarding this particular
14 topic, sharing their thoughts on this issue,
15 especially those who attended the January 8th
16 meeting in person or virtually.

17 We're also grateful for anyone who
18 has poured into the conversation that we're going
19 to have tonight.

20 Finally, before we begin public
21 comment, I'd like to say a few words about the
22 Commissions's rules for behaviors at meeting.
23 The Commission's bylaws set rules that apply to
24 everyone at our meetings, both Commissioners and

1 people in the audience. The rules are designed
2 to make these meetings a place where all speakers
3 are safe, have an opportunity to be heard, and
4 are able to speak without disruption or
5 intimidation. If people interrupt, disrupt,
6 harass, threaten, discriminate, or disrespect,
7 the Chair of the meeting will call the order,
8 which is myself, issue warnings to people who are
9 violating the rules and can ultimately have
10 someone removed for violating the rules.

11 Commissioners can also make motions
12 to enforce these rules. We ask everyone to help
13 create a safe space where we can have hard
14 conversations respectfully and allow every
15 speaker to be heard.

16 The next item of business is public
17 comment.

18 Today, we request that speakers
19 provide comments specifically to this topic of
20 the Chicago Police Department and its involvement
21 in adherence to the Welcoming City Ordinance.
22 Feedback you have are a few options. You can
23 always submit public comment in writing by
24 emailing your comment to

1 CommunityCommissionPublicComment@cityofchicago.
2 org. If you have a printed version of a comment,
3 you can also give it to someone on the Commission
4 or someone on the Commission staff tonight.

5 People who wanted to speak were
6 asked to submit their names in writing earlier
7 tonight. A member of the Commission chose ten
8 names at random. We have 20 minutes for public
9 comment. If your name is not called to speak
10 tonight, Commissioners would still like to hear
11 from you about this topic. If you don't have an
12 opportunity to speak but have a printed copy of
13 your comment, you can share it with the staff
14 member, or you can email it again to
15 CommunityCommissionPublicComment@cityofchicago.
16 org.

17 All comments that are submitted have
18 been shared with the Commissioners.

19 Also, we have a Spanish language
20 translator with us today. Would you like to be
21 acknowledged?

22 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Say it in Spanish.

23 PRESIDENT TERRY: Respect the mic, please, or
24 you will be asked to be removed. Thank you.

1 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARIJO: (Speaking
2 Spanish.)

3 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Thank you.

4 PRESIDENT TERRY: We will now begin with
5 public comment.

6 Speakers will be called in order in
7 which their names were drawn. If your name is
8 called, please approach the microphone and line
9 up in the order in which your name is called.
10 When it is your turn to speak, please say your
11 name, and spell your first and last name and then
12 offer your public comment. Each speaker will
13 have two minutes.

14 Our first three speakers, Johanna
15 Raimond, Cynthia Alvarez, and Louise Carhart.

16 MR. RAIMOND: My name is Josi Raimond,
17 R-A-I-M-O-N-D. I'm with Illinois Fighters
18 Against Fascist Overreach.

19 Cook County's State's Attorney
20 Burke claims her office can't investigate crimes
21 committed by federal immigration agents unless
22 they are referred by law enforcement.

23 Is CPD investigating?

24 In response to a FOIA request, CPD

1 told me they have not investigated any alleged
2 criminal conduct by federal immigration agents.
3 No prior investigations that are closed, no
4 ongoing investigations now.

5 The Superintendent owes us
6 transparency. Is that true? And if there are no
7 investigations, why not?

8 We have all seen video footage of
9 potential crimes. Mayor Lightfoot has collected
10 it on her website. The Illinois Accountability
11 Commission has gathered evidence and held
12 hearings.

13 These sources show federal
14 immigration agents engaging in what looks like
15 criminal conduct, including physical assaults,
16 pepper spray assaults, damage to property,
17 braking windows, threatening residents, pointing
18 guns at residents.

19 We also know through the failed
20 prosecution of Marimar Martinez that federal
21 agents rammed her car, and border patrol agent
22 Charles Exum shot her five times and then bragged
23 about it. Has CPD investigated? And if not, why
24 not?

1 Local law enforcement has the legal
2 authority to investigate federal agents and refer
3 those cases to the State's Attorney. Qualified
4 immunity is no excuse. All police officers have
5 that, whether under state law or in the case of
6 federal agents through the constitution, but if
7 and only if they can meet that standard at trial.
8 It does not put them beyond investigation. It
9 does not put them beyond prosecution. And we've
10 had enough of pass the buck between State's
11 Attorney Burke and the CPD.

12 These crimes must be investigated
13 and prosecuted. Thank you.

14 MS. ALVAREZ: Good evening. My name is
15 Cynthia Alvarez, C-Y-N-T-H-I-A, community
16 organizer and youth instructor with Increase the
17 Peace Chicago, but I'm also a long life resident
18 in the Back of the Yards community.

19 In the past CCPSA meetings,
20 community members have already come forward and
21 shared their experiences involving CPD and
22 federal agents.

23 I'm not here to share any more.
24 Those testimonies need to be taken seriously

1 because they are very real. Something we've
2 experienced for months.

3 So my question is, what is CPD and
4 CCPSA doing to ensure these experiences are
5 documented and made public so there can be real
6 accountability? And what is the process in
7 Chicago for placing officers on desk duty during
8 investigations? They should not be out in the
9 streets, especially in cases where their actions
10 may be aiding and abetting federal agencies
11 instead of protecting our communities, so it says
12 on their sign, which is protect and serve. Thank
13 you. Now I give the rest of my time to the next
14 person.

15 PRESIDENT TERRY: Thank you.

16 MS. CARHART: Hi. My name is Louise Carhart.
17 I'm a member of the Chicago Alliance against
18 Racist and Political Repression. I'm also an
19 immigration attorney in Chicago. I have a lot of
20 clients who have been directly affected by CPD's
21 failure to comply with the Welcoming City
22 Ordinance. We've done a lot of digging into the
23 compliance reports that they are required to
24 submit orderly and honestly. It doesn't take a

1 lot of digging because those reports are two
2 pages long and only contain detainee requests
3 from ICE. There's no guidance from OIG on what
4 they are supposed to report. I think it seems
5 like the Superintendent and CPD have decided on
6 what they report in terms of the Welcoming City
7 Ordinance compliance. There's no information on
8 open investigations in any of the BIA reports.
9 There's no information on investigations that
10 COPA says have been referred to BIA in BIA or
11 COPA reports.

12 All of this public information is
13 what we were pointed to and directed to as
14 evidence that the City and CPD is working to
15 comply with the Welcoming City Ordinance, and all
16 of it is completely devoid of detail. Actually,
17 any information about investigations. It remains
18 to be seen whether there has been any
19 investigation at all into violations under the
20 Welcoming City Ordinance. And I can say from
21 someone who has been in the streets when CPD has
22 been setting perimeters around ICE agents, CBP
23 agents, which is a violation of the Welcoming
24 City Ordinance, and they claim its crowd control.

1 That it -- you know, there's no detail on what
2 crowd control is. We're just setting a
3 perimeter. And I think Superintendent Snelling
4 has a lot to answer for tonight.

5 PRESIDENT TERRY: Thank you.

6 Our next three speakers, Moy
7 Hernandez, Gianna Escareno, Tiwon Sims.

8 MR. HERNANDEZ: Hello. My name is Moy. I'm
9 part of CAARPR. This special hearing comes after
10 months of advocacy by District Councilors and
11 community organizers and was made necessary by
12 Snelling's failure to show up for the CCPSA
13 February meeting.

14 Now, public comment has been
15 limited to ten people. Snelling refused to
16 participate if -- refused to participate if
17 immigrant experts were present and would not
18 allow the date to change despite conflicts with
19 major religious holidays.

20 At last months's CCPSA meeting, a
21 majority of Commissioners failed to show up, and
22 they could not hold up a vote on an OIG audit of
23 CPD's WCO compliance. Both Snelling and CCPSA
24 have not shown that ICE collaboration is an issue

1 they take seriously and have failed to fill the
2 mandate established by the ECPS ordinance.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. ESCARENO: Good evening, everyone. My
5 name is Gianna. I'm a member of CAARPR's working
6 committee and a member of the southwest side Gage
7 Park area and a community member which is an
8 immigrant community that was hit hard during
9 Operation Midway Blitz.

10 I'm here on behalf of community
11 members who are demanding that the Commission do
12 what you can to end CPD and ICE collaboration,
13 and we know that you all have the power to hold
14 CPD and ICE accountable from collaborating with
15 ICE.

16 CPD should be publishing a monthly
17 report on any 911 calls that were made by federal
18 agents to CPD, any dispatch orders to scenes
19 where known federal agents were carrying out
20 operations and any other forms of communication
21 between ICE and CPD.

22 These reports should include the
23 names of any officers found to be collaborating
24 with ICE, the names of their police commanders

1 and the districts they are located in. A list of
2 known collaborators should be published monthly
3 so repeated offenders for districts with
4 persistent issues can be addressed.

5 The video footage from the shooting
6 of Marimar Martinez, a member of my community,
7 this community Brighton Park, who was almost
8 murdered by ICE, and they shot her five times and
9 rammed into her car, an innocent community
10 member. Think about that. The video footage
11 from the shooting of Marimar Martinez explicitly
12 shows white shirt and CPD officer telling other
13 CPD officers to move away and not record. This
14 is explicit collaboration.

15 Shame. Who are these officers?
16 Who was this commander?

17 We cannot allow this information to
18 be sequestered and hidden by CPD and addressed
19 internally without public participation.

20 The community knows that CPD and
21 ICE are, in fact, collaborating with each other.
22 We have seen it with our own eyes. We have seen
23 it in our communities. We have been on the
24 ground. The community in this room has seen it.

1 We have seen CPD and ICE collaborating, and we're
2 demanding that you hold them accountable.

3 We are also demanding that you pass
4 the CPOP referendum so that the community can
5 elect our own commission. Thank you.

6 MR. SIMS: Hey, good evening, Commission.
7 Good evening, Superintendent Snelling.

8 So I came here tonight, and I
9 turned this over and over and over this whole
10 argument of law enforcement, what CPD versus the
11 federal immigration. How? You just said it,
12 collaborating, but they are not collaborating.
13 They are doing their job. How? Because we can
14 mince word, but how? How do you all suppose we
15 get this one entity, which is law enforcement, to
16 collaborate against itself, or to, what, argue
17 with itself? No, no, because the argument is
18 coming from here. And we wasting time, because
19 it is a lot of different things happening in this
20 City --

21 PRESIDENT TERRY: Order. Order. You will be
22 asked to be removed if you are not quiet.
23 Respect his time. He's speaking. Can we get
24 some -- please allow him his time.

1 MR. SIMS: Can I have my time reset, 20
2 seconds? But it's comical. It's -- but we can
3 attribute it to Brandon Johnson for signing an
4 Executive Order into action for what? How do we
5 get the same body to go against itself? And I
6 guess he woke up one day with this brainchild,
7 like, You know what? Hey, we can pit CPD against
8 the federal ICE enforcers, and then you know
9 what? We can take our oversight committees and
10 have them sort it out. So that CCPSA, we should
11 be holding officers accountable for real
12 negligence in the communities, all 77 of them,
13 but we have organization after organization
14 arguing for what? But nobody spoke for Sheridan
15 Gorman. This is in my community Rogers Park.
16 This young lady was murdered. I went to my
17 community to get aid. No aid. But we're going
18 use the oversight committees and scream about
19 justice. For what? But you can't -- you all
20 can't drag the Superintendent, but how do you --
21 this gentleman --

22 PRESIDENT TERRY: Be quiet. Respect his
23 space.

24 MR. SIMS: Just like you said, law

1 enforcement is law enforcement.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Y'all's time is up.

3 PRESIDENT TERRY: Excuse me. Thank you.
4 Thank you. Please. I understand. Please be
5 respectful of everyone.

6 Chris Bouy Gentry, Kayla Nguyn, Mia
7 Sanchez.

8 MR. GENTRY: Howdy. So, hi. My name is
9 Chris Buoy Gentry. I work with Puno and Common
10 Defense. I am a U.S. Army military police
11 veteran who was in -- in Little Village -- I told
12 this story last time -- when an ICE agent in a
13 Little Village incident at Discount Mall, one of
14 the agents rolled his window down and put a gun
15 to my head and said he's going to shoot me.
16 Right? He rolled his window down in front -- six
17 inches away from another police officer, because
18 the police had created a cordoned. So in front
19 of a police officer, and in front of a CPD agent
20 -- CPD officer, an ICE agent rolled his window
21 down after driving out of Discount Mall, holding
22 a handgun out of the window, "Bam, you're going
23 to die later" in front of a police officer.

24 I have video of me talking to that

1 cop who then said, "I can't do anything. They're
2 a fed." Right?

3 It is really clear that under
4 Superintendent Snelling, if you wear a badge, you
5 can commit whatever crime you want to in Chicago.

6 They shot Marimar Martinez, and the
7 judges -- the judge said that it was a crime, and
8 they have no investigation. There's video of
9 them saying, "Turn the body cam off." Where's
10 the investigation? There is no investigation.
11 This was in front -- again, someone who has seen
12 guns pointed at me before, having an agent of my
13 own government point a gun at my head in front of
14 a police officer who said, I can't do anything.
15 That is the orders that Superintendent Snelling
16 is giving his police.

17 He has made it very clear that his
18 police are allowed to do -- not allowed to do
19 anything to prevent ICE agents from committing
20 crimes. They have committed crimes in our
21 community. Police agents have watched them
22 commit the crimes. We have video of them
23 committing the crimes, and yet there is no
24 investigation. Where is the investigation?

1 Where is the accountability?

2 I was a military police officer. I
3 know how police things are supposed to be done,
4 and they're not doing it here.

5 We're watching them commit crimes
6 in our community, and the police aren't doing
7 anything to stop it.

8 That's why I'm asking
9 Superintendent Snelling, where is the
10 investigation what happened to Marimar Martinez
11 and where is the investigation into Discount
12 Mall?

13 MS. NGUYEN: My name is Kayla Nguyen.
14 K-A-Y-L-A, N-G-U-Y-E-N. I'm a member of CAARPR's
15 Immigrant Rights Working Committee, and I have a
16 few questions for the committee today.

17 So at the last meeting, like it's
18 been stated here already, the Commission failed
19 to have quorum and delayed a key vote to have the
20 OIG audit BIA and its investigation of CPD's
21 compliance with WCO.

22 Why does the Commission continue to
23 delay meaningful action in favor of needless
24 deliberation and nitpicking in the face of the

1 people and the public who have come to express
2 their grievances and ask for the Commission's
3 accountability with regards to CPD/ICE
4 cooperation, an end to pretextual traffic stops,
5 an end to police torture, and white supremacist
6 cops we know are on the force?

7 Must this Commission take off its
8 pants to fart, too?

9 I don't disagree with the idea that
10 accountability should be done with care and due
11 process, as is the right of every individual and
12 person, but when it is evident that this terror
13 and violence continues to disproportionately
14 affect our black and brown communities from the
15 hands of law enforcement, when this Commission
16 has heard direct testimony from several community
17 members, when due process is not afforded to
18 people living in the city, and when it is clear
19 that CPD would rather protect and serve ICE
20 rather than the people that they are sworn to
21 defend, but we are seeing CPD crowd control
22 during immigration enforcement actively
23 legitimizing and encouraging ICE's extrajudicial
24 kidnappings and recognized violations of federal

1 law. That's a problem that you guys need to
2 address expeditiously.

3 In Chicago specifically, ICE has a
4 pattern and practice of detaining people without
5 warrants or probable cause.

6 And being protected by a line of
7 CPD officers allows them to carry out illegal
8 detentions with little public accountability.

9 We know that this emboldens ICE and
10 results in injury to the public, and if the
11 federal government wishes to carry out
12 immigration and enforcement in Chicago, then
13 their own resources should be sufficient to
14 manage all of the following consequences. Thank
15 you.

16 MS. SANCHEZ: My name is Maya, M-A-Y-A
17 S-A-N-C-H-E-Z. I want to echo what everyone
18 before me has said except for that one guy.
19 CPD protecting themselves over public
20 accountability is a pattern we have seen for
21 years.

22 We saw this after the Laquan
23 McDonald, Dexter Reed, and Rekia Boyd shooting.

24 CPD continues to operate outside of

1 the federal Consent Decree issued in response to
2 its failure to provide public accountability.
3 Now CPD is protecting ICE in direct violation of
4 the Welcoming City Ordinance.

5 Putting law enforcement agencies
6 ahead of the people CPD is meant to protect shows
7 that the true goal of these agencies is
8 protecting those in power.

9 As previously has been said, this
10 special hearing comes after months of advocacy by
11 District Councilors and community organizers and
12 was made necessary by Snelling's failure to show
13 up for the CCPSA February meeting.

14 Now public commented has been
15 limited to ten people. Snelling refused to
16 participate if immigration experts were present
17 and would not allow the date to be changed,
18 despite many conflicts that you guys outlined
19 yourselves.

20 At last month's CCPSA meeting, a
21 majority of Commissioners failed to show up, and
22 they could not hold a vote on the OIG audit of
23 CPD's WCO compliance.

24 Both Snelling and CCPSA have not

1 shown that ICE collaboration is an issue that
2 they take seriously and have failed to fulfill
3 the mandate established by the ECPS ordinance.
4 Do better.

5 PRESIDENT TERRY: The next speaker Delaney
6 Bonacquisti. That's the last speaker, Delaney.

7 MS. BONACQUISTI: Good evening, everyone. My
8 name is Delaney, D-E-L-A-N-E-Y, Bonacquisti,
9 B-O-N-A-C-Q-U-I-S-T-I, and I'm here today for my
10 neighborhood, the beloved neighborhood of Albany
11 Park.

12 As you can see, I'm white and have
13 a Midwestern accent. You would think my
14 day-to-day life is probably not affected by ICE,
15 right? But it is actually, because my friends
16 and my loved ones who are closest to me are in
17 constant fear. Even with, quote-unquote, "proper
18 documentation," they're still afraid to do normal
19 quotidian things, like travel on Metra trains or
20 allow their parents to travel internationally to
21 visit family.

22 One person I know was too afraid to
23 even travel to their local police station to
24 retrieve a physical copy of a crash report

1 because they are worried if they visibly looked
2 like an immigrant, they might be at risk of being
3 kidnapped by ICE. Why? CPD isn't ICE. They
4 respect the Welcoming City ordinance, but still
5 my legally documented friend was so afraid that
6 they couldn't go by themselves to make a simple
7 five-minute request unless I accompanied them.

8 Superintendent Snelling, the
9 actions of your officers and events like June 4th
10 downtown and November 8th in Little Village make
11 it so that anyone with even a whiff of any kind
12 of noncitizen status is afraid to even go to a
13 police station to pick up a simple report.

14 I said my loved ones are in
15 constant fear. Do you think I'm not? I can't
16 protect my friends. I can't protect the people I
17 love.

18 If masked agents ambushed them,
19 what do you want me to do? Who can I call? I
20 can't call the cops. I'll tell you that.

21 I will not call people who will
22 stand with their backs to the kidnappers, like
23 CPD did in the eyewitness stories already related
24 by public commenters at the January 9th's CCPSA

1 meeting at Thalia Hall.

2 I want to say to the Commission on
3 behalf of my fellow Jewish and Christian
4 neighbors, it is messed up to put this meeting
5 today.

6 I don't agree -- I don't
7 countenance with your statement this had to
8 happen with urgency. It was an eight-month delay
9 between the June 4th incident with ICE. It's
10 been three months since the last meeting.
11 Urgency was left in the dust long ago. I don't
12 believe that.

13 PRESIDENT TERRY: Thank you.

14 Thank you, all for your comments.
15 We have reached the end of our public comment
16 period.

17 First we're going to move on to new
18 business. First, we will vote on the approval of
19 our minutes. Before today's meeting, draft
20 minutes of the Commission's regular meeting held
21 on February 26th were shared with all
22 Commissioners.

23 Are there any corrections to the
24 draft minutes that were shared?

1 If there are no corrections, I move
2 to approve the minutes.

3 COMMISSIONER PIEMONTE: Second.

4 PRESIDENT TERRY: I moved to approve the
5 minutes of the Commission meetings held on
6 February 26. Commissioner Piemonte has seconded.
7 Is there any debate on the motion?

8 (NO RESPONSE.)

9 PRESIDENT TERRY: Hearing none, we will move
10 to a vote. Those in favor of adopting the motion
11 to approve the minutes from the Commission's
12 meeting held on February 26th, please say aye.

13 (CHORUS OF AYES.)

14 PRESIDENT TERRY: Are there any opposed?

15 (NO RESPONSE.)

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

18 Next, we will take a vote on whether
19 to approve a series of closed meetings.
20 Commissioner Piemonte.

21 COMMISSIONER PIEMONTE: Section 2(c)(3) of
22 the Illinois Open Meetings Act allows the
23 Commission to meet in closed session to consider
24 the selection of a person to fill a public office

1 or the discipline, performance, or removal of a
2 person who holds public office, if the Commission
3 has the legal authority to fill the vacancy or
4 remove a person from the office.

5 The Open Meetings Act authorizes
6 the Commission to vote to hold these closed
7 meetings for up to three months.

8 Over the next few months, the
9 Commission may need to meet in closed session for
10 reasons that are allowed under the Open Meetings
11 Act, including discussions about appointments and
12 filling vacancies.

13 I move to authorize a series of
14 closed meetings for the maximum period allowed as
15 permitted under Section 2(c)(3) of the Illinois
16 Open Meetings Act.

17 PRESIDENT TERRY: Commissioner Piemonte has
18 moved to authorize a series of closed session
19 meetings to discuss the selection, performance,
20 discipline, or removal of public office holders.
21 Is there a second?

22 COMMISSIONER GOTTLIEB: So moved.

23 PRESIDENT TERRY: Commission Piemonte has
24 moved to authorized closed meetings for the

1 maximum period allowable as authorized by Section
2 2(c)(3) of the Open Meetings Act, Commissioner
3 Gottlieb has seconded. Is there any debate on
4 the motion?

5 (NO RESPONSE.)

6 PRESIDENT TERRY: Hearing none, we will move
7 to a vote. Those in favor, please signal by
8 saying aye.

9 (CHORUS OF AYES.)

10 PRESIDENT TERRY: Those opposed?

11 (NO RESPONSE.)

12 PRESIDENT TERRY: The ayes have it, and the
13 motion carries.

14 The Commission is authorized to
15 hold a series of closed meetings for the maximum
16 time period allowed as authorized by Section
17 2(c)(3) of the Open Meetings Act.

18 Next, we will discuss a potential
19 request for the work from the City's Office of
20 Inspector General. Commissioner Gottlieb.

21 COMMISSIONER GOTTIEB: Thank you. So ever
22 since federal immigration enforcement agents
23 began operation Midway Blitz last year, the
24 Commission has heard questions and concerns about

1 whether CPD officers have violated the Welcoming
2 City Ordinance and CPD directive that say that
3 CPD can't assist federal agents in civil
4 immigration enforcement.

5 That's also raised questions about
6 what policies, training, and accountability
7 system CPD has in place to ensure compliance with
8 the laws and policies.

9 It is a significant job to fully
10 understand how all relevant policies, training,
11 and accountability systems are working.

12 There's an important role for the
13 Commission to play here, like today's hearing,
14 but the City's Office of the Inspector General is
15 created to do exactly this kind of in-depth
16 review.

17 The Deputy Inspector General for
18 public safety leads the Inspector General's
19 public safety section which conducts independent
20 and objective audits, evaluations, and reviews of
21 the operations of CPD, COPA, and the Police
22 Board.

23 The goal of the audits,
24 evaluations, and reviews is to look at things

1 like internal policies and procedures, see how
2 well they are working, and find ways to improve
3 effectiveness, accountability, and transparency.

4 If the Inspector General is doing
5 an audit and finds evidence that an individual
6 has violated policy, then OIG can open a separate
7 investigation into the population.

8 CCPSA's ordinance gives the
9 Commission the power to recommend that the Deputy
10 Inspector General for Public Safety conducts
11 research and audits on specific issues.

12 When the OIG does an audit, it can
13 issue a report on its findings and make
14 recommendations.

15 At the Commission's public meeting
16 in February, Commissioners asked the Deputy
17 Inspector General Richardson how the public
18 safety section would approach evaluating CPD
19 compliance with the Welcoming City Ordinance and
20 relevant CPD directives.

21 The Deputy Inspector General
22 explained that the office would conduct an audit
23 evaluation or review.

24 Some Commissioners feel that an

1 audit, evaluation, or review by the Deputy
2 Inspector General for Public Safety could provide
3 valuable information and help to assess and
4 ensure that CPD work related to federal
5 immigration enforcement is complying with the
6 Welcoming City Ordinance and relevant CPD
7 directives.

8 In addition, if the Deputy
9 Inspector General for Public Safety conducts an
10 evaluation or an audit and publishes a report,
11 the Commission can use that information to
12 determine whether any further action is
13 appropriate.

14 PRESIDENT TERRY: Thank you, Commissioner
15 Gottlieb. Do you have a motion?

16 COMMISSIONER GOTTIEB: Yes. I move that the
17 Community Commission for Public Safety and
18 Accountability make a recommendation to the
19 Deputy Inspector General for Public Safety to
20 conduct an audit of CPD's implementation of the
21 Welcoming City Ordinance and related
22 CPD directives.

23 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARIJO: I second.

24 PRESIDENT TERRY: Commissioner Gottlieb has

1 made a motion, and Commissioner Rubi Navarijo has
2 seconded.

3 Those in favor of making -- those
4 in favor of -- wait. Is there any debate on this
5 motion?

6 COMMISSIONER WORTHAM: I just want to make a
7 comment on this. I'm a no on this, but I want to
8 explain that I'm a no because I do not believe
9 we're here yet.

10 A lot of my concern in this entire
11 conversation, our meeting on January 8, all of
12 the conversations that we've heard from the
13 public since then, frankly, internal conversation
14 with my colleagues, to me, expresses a severe
15 lack of understanding about the applicable law.

16 Now, my colleague said, and
17 rightfully so, that it is -- I want to make sure
18 I quote you correctly, "A significant job to
19 fully understand all of the relevant law." It
20 is, and I think that's our job.

21 I realize that people come to this
22 work with different levels and nature of
23 experience in law or in law enforcement or in
24 policy, whatever it is. I think that's fine. I

1 think, though, then when you take this job, it is
2 your job to then educate yourself, and I don't
3 feel that this Commission has either fully
4 educated all of ourselves or the public about
5 what the law is and how it relates to CPD's
6 actions.

7 Okay. I'm going to keep talking.
8 Okay. So before we recommend an audit, I think
9 that we should do our job to make sure the public
10 is fully informed about what the law says --

11 PRESIDENT TERRY: Please respect the mic.

12 COMMISSIONER WORTHAM: -- so that people can
13 have a full understanding, so they are not coming
14 in here wasting your time telling us CPD is
15 violating something that has nothing to do with
16 CPD.

17 I'm not saying every -- you know,
18 it doesn't benefit anybody for this Commission to
19 field concerns that we know are not applicable to
20 the departments we oversee and then not share
21 that information with the public. It doesn't
22 help you. It doesn't help us.

23 That's why I'm a no on this. I
24 hope this evening will be instructive so that as

1 we continue to field feedback from the community,
2 it is actually feedback relevant to the work that
3 this Commission is charged to do.

4 PRESIDENT TERRY: Thank you. Any other
5 debate on the motion?

6 COMMISSIONER MINOR: I have a clarifying
7 question. I want to make sure that I'm hearing
8 this correctly. When you say the OIG -- your
9 closing statement was making sure that we're
10 making recommendations applicable to the body
11 that we're making recommendations to. So am I
12 understanding that, in your position, that the
13 OIG cannot make -- cannot make an audit or cannot
14 provide recommendations to a body that they have
15 oversight over?

16 COMMISSIONER WORTHAM: No. I will be very
17 specific then. That's a good question, and I'm
18 happy to answer it.

19 My point is, we have heard both
20 January 8th, and written correspondence, and
21 internal communication complaints that CPD's
22 violating the Welcoming City Ordinance because of
23 things have nothing to do with CPD, and I think
24 it is our responsibility as a body to say, This

1 is CPD's function, this is not.

2 Now, if we hear complaints about
3 things that are rightfully CPD's function, and it
4 seems that there is an issue that we as an
5 oversight body need to address, let's address it,
6 absolutely, but let's be frank.

7 Our January 8th meeting, we had
8 people, frankly, in policymaking authority in
9 this City come in here and blatantly misstate our
10 ordinance authority and CPD's legal authority.
11 We had people come into our meeting and say we
12 have oversight over federal immigration agents.
13 That's not true, and we have never said that as a
14 body. We've never refuted those blatantly false
15 statements about CPD's authority and our
16 authority, and we don't do the public a service
17 by being silent on that.

18 So to go another step and say,
19 let's do an audit now, and we haven't set the
20 record straight about the basic facts, is
21 negligent on our part.

22 So, yes, of course the OIG can make
23 a recommendation, but we haven't done our due
24 diligence yet in order to ask them to do that.

1 COMMISSIONER MINOR: Thank you so much for
2 providing that clarity. I really wanted to
3 understand the position before I respond.

4 I'm a yay to making sure that the
5 OIG does an investigation.

6 I am a yay because one of the
7 things that I want to uplift is that the OIG is
8 an independent body, so their work is completely
9 separate from our work. Their work is completely
10 separate from what happened in public comment,
11 whether favorable to the Commission or not,
12 whether it be informed or not.

13 I also think that's why it's
14 important we have engagements like this where we
15 would have had subject matter experts engage and
16 inform the public on its suite of options. Also
17 ensure that in our -- in our presentation, we
18 also provide where all the various oversight
19 bodies stand. That's why this is such an amazing
20 opportunity, and I'm happy we're having
21 conversation. Unfortunately, I don't think that
22 we're going to get the meat and substance the
23 conversation could have had because we don't have
24 those elements.

1 PRESIDENT TERRY: Is there any more debate on
2 the motion?

3 Hearing none, those in favor of
4 making a recommendation to the Deputy Inspector
5 General for Public Safety to conduct an audit on
6 CPD's implementation of the Welcoming City
7 Ordinance and related directives, please signify
8 by saying aye.

9 (CHORUS OF AYES.)

10 PRESIDENT TERRY: Are there any opposed?

11 COMMISSIONER WORTHAM: Nay.

12 PRESIDENT TERRY: The ayes have it, and the
13 motion carries.

14 The Commission will make a
15 recommendation to the Deputy Inspector General
16 for Public Safety to conduct an audit on CPD's
17 implementation of the Welcoming City ordinance.

18 We will now turn to our main topic
19 tonight, which is the Chicago Police Department's
20 adherence to the Welcoming City Ordinance during
21 immigration enforcement encounters. I want to
22 highlight two things at the outset. It may be
23 obvious to most but are important to note. We
24 will talk about immigration enforcement a lot,

1 but the Commission doesn't have any jurisdiction
2 over the federal agencies.

3 If you want to share concern about
4 possible misconduct by immigration customs
5 enforcement and CBP, you can bring it to the
6 Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights.
7 Again, they have a table here tonight.

8 Similarly, the Commission does not
9 handle individual complaints about possible
10 misconduct by Chicago police officers. Those
11 complaints go to COPA.

12 At the Commission's meeting in
13 January, we heard people share information about
14 potential misconduct. The Commission brought all
15 of that information to COPA.

16 If you want to share concern about
17 possible misconduct by a CPD officer, COPA is
18 also here tonight.

19 The Commission works on broader
20 issues with CPD, like policies, trainings, and
21 accountability systems that affect the whole
22 department.

23 Tonight, we will hear from the
24 Chicago Police Department Superintendent Larry

1 Snelling. The focus of the meeting is to ask
2 questions that community members, Commissioners,
3 District Councilors, and other partners in this
4 work have for the Superintendent and the
5 Department. We will speak with Superintendent
6 Snelling about CPD's responsibilities under the
7 Welcoming City Ordinance and discuss how the
8 Department has addressed the changing landscape
9 of federal enforcement activity in Chicago. Most
10 importantly, we hope the conversation will
11 provide clarity and provide CPD -- what CPD
12 officers can and should do during federal
13 immigration enforcement activities.

14 I would now like to invite
15 Superintendent Snelling on stage, and
16 Superintendent Snelling will open with a brief
17 statement, and then Commissioners will ask
18 questions.

19 Welcome, Superintendent Snelling.

20 SUPERINTENDENT SNELLING: First of all, good
21 evening. Thank you, President Terry, and thank
22 you to the entire Commission.

23 You know, I'm going to open this by
24 saying a few things because I heard a lot of

1 things. There have been a lot of things
2 reported.

3 What I would like to say to
4 everyone here, if you want to know facts, if you
5 want to know correspondence, there are emails,
6 messages, please FOIA those things. It's
7 extremely important that you get the facts and
8 the information on what's going on.

9 Now, as far as having subject matter
10 experts, that was not something that we discussed
11 initially. The initial response was supposed to
12 be myself, COPA, and OIG. I found out about that
13 meeting in a short period of time.

14 I'm Superintendent of the Chicago
15 Police Department. I'm tasked with keeping the
16 entire City safe and making sure officers are
17 doing so.

18 I can't drop things and just show up
19 when I'm called with a week's notice. We have to
20 collaborate in a way with each other that's going
21 to be the most effective for everyone involved.

22 Now, it was -- it is important to
23 understand this. At that meeting, I could have
24 sent a designee, because that's the law, but I

1 prefer to be here myself, because I don't run
2 from anything, and I'm going to answer questions,
3 and I'm going to answer them truthfully, and
4 that's regardless of whether you like the answer
5 or not.

6 The truth is that we are tasked with
7 keeping everyone safe. And when this occurred,
8 we talked about the Welcoming City Ordinance. We
9 talked about the Trust Act, and I'm not sure
10 everyone is well versed on what it is, but I can
11 guarantee you when those that were written, no
12 one wrote the ordinance and the law with this
13 type of immigration enforcement in mind.

14 I do not believe under any
15 circumstances that anyone writing those policies,
16 those orders, those laws believed that we would
17 see what we saw this past fall.

18 So what I am going to tell you is
19 this. When it comes to the Chicago Police
20 Department and the Chicago police officers, our
21 officers showed up to keep down violence.

22 (AUDIENCE YELLING OVER SPEAKER)

23 Well, it's okay. It's okay. This
24 is the response I expected, because, here, I will

1 tell you again, I'm always out there with my
2 officers.

3 Here's the point and here's the
4 point that I'm making. It's easy to blame CPD
5 when you're looking for somebody to blame, but
6 when you look -- when you look across this
7 country, we had a woman shot. Ms. Martinez was
8 shot by federal agents.

9 When that occurred, our officers
10 were on the scene. There was civil unrest. Our
11 officers were there to keep the crowd separated.

12 You say we protect ICE. Let me
13 explain something to you. ICE needed no
14 protection.

15 The people who needed protection are
16 the ones that we stopped further from being shot.
17 The ones that we protected were the ones that we
18 stopped from further having gas dropped on them.
19 You want to know how involved our officers were,
20 they were gassed also.

21 If our officers were involved in
22 collaborating, they wouldn't have taken that for
23 the people in that community.

24 So I will tell you this, I'm going

1 to answer every question to the best of my
2 ability while I'm sitting here, and I'm going to
3 give you the truth, and I'll tell you this right
4 now -- and I'm not going to say it at this very
5 moment -- my CPD officers are out there working
6 to keep communities safe. And I'm going to stand
7 up for my officers because they are standing up
8 for communities.

9 With that, please.

10 PRESIDENT TERRY: Thank you, Superintendent
11 Snelling. I'm sure all commissioners probably
12 have questions.

13 So, Commissioner Gottlieb, we can
14 start your way and work our way back.

15 COMMISSIONER GOTTIEB: Thank you,
16 Superintendent Snelling, for being here. I'm
17 looking forward to this discussion. I appreciate
18 you being here.

19 So from my perspective, like one
20 question I have is, so there might be situations
21 where an officer observes an -- where an officer
22 observes -- and I say agent doing what appears to
23 be a crime or commit what appears to be a crime
24 from their perspective.

1 In those situations, what are CPD
2 officers supposed to do?

3 SUPERINTENDENT SNELLING: Thank you for the
4 question. Can you be a little more specific when
5 you say what is supposed to be a crime? That's
6 not enough information. Explain to me what you
7 mean.

8 COMMISSIONER GOTTIEB: I mean like --

9 (AUDIENCE YELLING OVER SPEAKERS)

10 PRESIDENT TERRY: Excuse me. Hold on a
11 second. Please be quiet and allow them to have a
12 dialogue. If you came here to listen, then do
13 so, or you will be asked to leave. Thank you.
14 Commissioner Gottlieb.

15 COMMISSIONER GOTTIEB: Thank you. I
16 appreciate the opportunity to clarify.

17 So if an officer observes an ICE
18 agent violating state law, or local law, or
19 believe that to be the case, right? So there's
20 going to be a question about this idea that they
21 could be doing any sort of -- in their sort of
22 duty as ICE officers. Let's assume that's not
23 the case, and an officer believes that an ICE
24 agent is operating outside the scope of the law.

1 What guidance does CPD -- what are officers
2 supposed to do?

3 SUPERINTENDENT SNELLING: Let me give you a
4 few things there, because, again, that is very
5 vague, and I want to be clear about what this is.
6 One of the things that I've heard was why isn't
7 CPD arresting ICE agents. The answer to that
8 question is, I would turn everyone to what is
9 called the Supremacy Clause. The Supremacy
10 Clause is a federal law that prohibits states
11 from interfering with federal agents when they're
12 engaging in their duties. This prohibits local
13 police officers from arresting ICE agents or
14 engaging when they're in the performance of their
15 duties.

16 Now, when we started talking about
17 what a violation of law is, we have to be careful
18 with that because we don't know how these agents
19 are trained or what their marching orders are.
20 So if we don't know those things, then there's
21 due process.

22 So the bottom line is, those
23 federal agents under the Supremacy Clause would
24 be protected against interference from the state.

1 Now, that being said -- and I can't
2 release it at this point because it's still -- it
3 still has not been approved. It's now sitting
4 with City Hall, but based on the Mayor's
5 Executive Order, we're right -- we have given our
6 response to it for our general order and
7 responding to incidents involving citizenship
8 enforcement.

9 This is something that's in the
10 works at this moment. But as the police
11 department, we are very focused on making sure
12 that we keep community safe.

13 Now, if you look across the
14 country, and you look at what is happening, we
15 got the opportunity to learn from another place
16 that saw eight days and nights of rioting. We
17 saw people killed in other states. For us, the
18 important thing was to stop people from being
19 hurt. We noted there's emotions around this at
20 the scenes of a lot of these situations.
21 Emotions ran high. And when emotions are high,
22 people act and sometimes overreact, and then you
23 get an overreaction from law enforcement.

24 When that happens, people get hurt,

1 people can lose their lives.

2 So right now, I can tell you what
3 we did when we knew federal agents were coming to
4 Chicago.

5 After the first incident, back in
6 June, June 4th, we saw something that we hadn't
7 seen. We were responding to a call of a police
8 officer who needed help. That was the call. We
9 showed up. We had no idea that federal
10 immigration enforcement was going on. This was a
11 contract. When we get to the scene, there is a
12 large group of protestors outside of the
13 building. We have to investigate to find out
14 what's actually going on. We found out that
15 there was federal immigration going on inside at
16 the time. At this time, it's rush hour. It's
17 raining. People are spilling out into the
18 streets. There's a high level of traffic. What
19 we do at the Chicago Police Department is that we
20 put things in place to control traffic, control
21 the movement of people so no one's hurt or
22 harmed.

23 So after that, what we did was we
24 set up things where we had the Deputy Chief

1 responsible when we got a call to a location
2 where we had immigration enforcement. Whoever
3 was the first on scene was to take notes and push
4 that information up the chain and make sure that
5 we have a deputy chief. That deputy chief would
6 then do a report and send it up the chain to our
7 chief of patrol.

8 So that was what we put in place.
9 This was the first time that we've seen this, and
10 I believe not only were we learning, everyone was
11 learning.

12 COMMISSIONER GOTTIEB: One quick follow-up.
13 So in the instances I described, sort of given
14 the Executive Order or not given the Executive
15 Order, either way, is CPD committed to
16 documenting what's happening and sending any
17 potential evidence to the State's Attorney as she
18 has said is necessary for her to move forward
19 with any possible prosecution if there was a
20 crime committed?

21 SUPERINTENDENT SNELLING: Listen, if there is
22 a crime committed by anyone, and people are
23 working outside the scope of their duties, and we
24 see a crime that's being committed -- we have

1 body cams. Because oftentimes we have to go a
2 little deeper than that. We have body cams.
3 That body cam footage is kept at evidence.com.
4 We can't touch it. We can't alter it. We can't
5 do anything to it.

6 So the bottom line is this, the
7 bottom line is this, when our officers go out --
8 if our officers witness anything that they
9 believe is a crime, and we have evidence of it,
10 yes, we will do what's within this order, but
11 right now I'm not going to talk about the order
12 until it's been approved.

13 COMMISSIONER GOTTLIEB: Thank you.

14 PRESIDENT TERRY: Thank you. Commissioner
15 Piemonte.

16 COMMISSIONER PIEMONTE: Yes. Superintendent,
17 public commenters have said this, CPD officers
18 face protestors and had their backs to ICE while
19 ICE is causing harm. Why do officers face
20 protestors rather than facing ICE? And I have to
21 say that, I was home watching this on TV in
22 November when it happened, and it was just such
23 an awful visual, and I know that if there was
24 someone in charge there, like you just said, when

1 the change went into effect, that that should
2 have been run up the chain to someone, who would
3 have made that type of decision, and what type of
4 training do they get, and after the fact, what is
5 your opinion about that now and would that happen
6 again?

7 SUPERINTENDENT SNELLING: No one would have
8 made a decision because that's a non-starter.

9 So let me just explain something to
10 you about my background and the background of a
11 lot of our officers who are dealing with
12 large-scale protests, things of that nature.
13 Demonstrator tactics.

14 (AUDIENCE YELLING OVER SPEAKER)

15 PRESIDENT TERRY: If you all want to leave --
16 I mean, who is -- I need these folks removed if
17 they want to continue to be disrespectful. We
18 will not continue to allow this. You came here
19 to listen, as I stated, or you can go outside and
20 protest.

21 SUPERINTENDENT SNELLING: This is why it's a
22 non-starter, because as the police, we have
23 training, and we're trained to watch those who
24 are posing a threat that would lead to higher

1 levels of force from agents.

2 If we are not facing the crowd,
3 that's where the demonstration would come from.

4 See, just because we believe that
5 our actions are justified, doesn't make it so.

6 So when we step into a position
7 where we now give a federal agent the ability to
8 use force, this now becomes a problem.

9 What we want to do is keep everyone
10 at a safe distance so there isn't a clash between
11 federal agents and those who protest.

12 If you want to protest, it is your
13 right to do so, but it is not your right to
14 physically engage with federal agents.

15 If we know that those federal agents
16 are not engaging at that time, and we know that
17 there's anger, there's hostility, the next step
18 is violence, and we want to make sure that we
19 keep the violence down.

20 Without our officers being there,
21 these things would have been way more violent.
22 There would have been more citizens hurt. There
23 would have been more residents hurt. Our
24 officers stopped it.

1 And it doesn't matter if we believe
2 it or not, I'm telling you what I know.

3 The question -- I did answer the
4 question, and the answer is no. You don't have
5 the experience or the knowledge to understand why
6 we wouldn't face the ICE agents. Why we wouldn't
7 face a hostile crowd. That's the answer to the
8 question, please.

9 PRESIDENT TERRY: Vice President -- Vice
10 President Rubi Navarijo.

11 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARIJO: Thank you.
12 Let's let the Superintendent answer. We have
13 serious questions to ask, so I appreciate it.

14 One question --

15 SUPERINTENDENT SNELLING: Hold on. Hold one.
16 Excuse me. I'm sorry. How disrespectful are we
17 going to allow these people. Shut the what up?
18 Come on. It tells me that they're not serious.
19 If we are going to have these serious
20 conversation about this, it can't be this way,
21 because it tells me no one is willing to listen
22 or to understand what's happening here.

23 If we truly want to get to the
24 bottom of this, we have to have a serious

1 conversation. And if we're not willing to do
2 that, and all we're willing to do is yell and
3 scream, we know what you're here for.

4 So, please, please be respectful.
5 Thank you.

6 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARIJO: Thank you.
7 There is a CPD directive that states that
8 Department members cannot set up a traffic
9 perimeter to assist civil immigration
10 enforcement.

11 How do Department members determine
12 when to set up a traffic perimeter during civil
13 immigration enforcement actions?

14 SUPERINTENDENT SNELLING: Real good question.
15 This was a question that came up on the 4th of
16 June. When we set up anything that looks like a
17 perimeter with traffic, it's not for immigration
18 enforcement.

19 Here's the deal. If we have
20 federal agents who are engaging in immigration
21 enforcement, and we showed up and set up a
22 perimeter so they could take people away so that
23 we could assist them while they're doing it, then
24 we are truly in violation of the Welcoming City

1 Ordinance and the Trust Act.

2 If we have a protest around it, and
3 we're trying to protect people, we're trying to
4 keep people safe, and we're trying to keep crowds
5 divided so no one gets hurt, injured, shot,
6 killed.

7 We had a woman -- we had Ms.
8 Martinez shot in this city. We did not want to
9 see that again. So we would set those up to make
10 sure that we're either dividing crowds, to make
11 sure that we restore and maintain the peace, or
12 we do it to make sure that no one gets hurt, and
13 we do it for traffic.

14 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARIJO: Thank you.
15 Earlier you said that the Chicago Police
16 Department can't take actions against federal
17 agents who are performing their duties.

18 Does that necessarily mean that in
19 order for CPD to consider an arrest, that federal
20 officer has to be off duty? Like is it like
21 every time -- I guess my question is, is it only
22 when they're on duty that that applies, the
23 Supremacy Clause?

24 SUPERINTENDENT SNELLING: No, it's not only

1 when they're not off duty, but something outside
2 the scope of what their duties allow them to do.
3 Obviously, if we saw a federal agent just walk up
4 to someone and shoot someone for no apparent
5 reason, we've got a different event. But if
6 they're -- if it's within the scope of their
7 duties, the Supremacy Clause does not allow us to
8 make a determination if they're acting outside
9 the scope of their duty under those circumstances
10 and to make an arrest.

11 So we have to be very clear about
12 what that is. It's a tough thing to have to
13 figure out, and it puts our officers in a very,
14 very difficult position.

15 VICE PRESIDENT RUBI NAVARIJO: Thank you.
16 One question, and then I'll move on. For victims
17 who have been harmed by these actions, has the
18 Police Department offered to write reports? Have
19 there been reports that have been issued that are
20 tied to what's been going on? Some people want
21 to know, Hey, how can I document this officially
22 with the Department. Is there something they can
23 do?

24 SUPERINTENDENT SNELLING: That's a great

1 question. That's a great question. If someone
2 comes to us with a complaint, we are going to
3 document it. We will put that in a report. If
4 you show up to a police station, if you show up
5 and talk to a police officer, it's our
6 responsibility to write you a report, and we will
7 write a report and document whatever it is that
8 you're asking us to document, because that's our
9 responsibility.

10 PRESIDENT TERRY: Do you have a question?

11 COMMISSIONER MINOR: I have a follow-up to
12 the point of Commissioner Navarijo's question.
13 Thank you so much for asking.

14 So it was a District Councilor, I
15 think in District 12, that uplifted that a
16 community member went to make a report of what
17 they perceived as constitutional violations by a
18 federal officer. They went to their district,
19 and they were turned away, and they were told
20 essentially that CPD cannot make reports on the
21 federal officers. Can you let us know where
22 members can go if they were turned away if they
23 wanted to make a report?

24 SUPERINTENDENT SNELLING: Are you saying that

1 was a District Councilor that did that or someone
2 who went to them?

3 COMMISSIONER MINOR: Somebody went to the
4 District Councilor --

5 SUPERINTENDENT SNELLING: I am aware of that.
6 That was a damage of property incident where a
7 person -- an agent chased an individual through
8 their property, and there was something that was
9 damaged.

10 At that time, our officers didn't
11 have clear information on how to document
12 something where a federal agent was involved in
13 something like criminal damage to property. So
14 this wasn't anything where a person was injured,
15 and they wanted to make a report. We rectified
16 that. We clarified it, and we put out
17 information for that. But you should be able to
18 go into any district and make a report, and we
19 will give you a report. Our officers should give
20 a report. If those officers are not giving you a
21 report, then we have other bodies where you can
22 make a complaint on that.

23 So documenting things in a report
24 is something that we do to make sure that we

1 ensure people are getting what they need.

2 COMMISSIONER MINOR: Thank you so much for
3 answering that question. I'm happy to hear there
4 is a remedy on that situation.

5 I have a follow-up question since
6 we are going in the point of documentation. I
7 know that you all just released a new special
8 order or some guidance to officers, and then now
9 it requires that field deputy must be on scene at
10 any time that CPD and ICE are on scene. And
11 there's also some reports that they have to fill
12 out when they're watching these operations. I
13 kind of want to know how many field deputies have
14 been trained? I know the deputies are also very
15 limited. Have you all made any capacity plans?
16 If field deputies are not available, who would be
17 next in charge just so the community knows? And
18 I also just want to know how often are these
19 reports reviewed and by whom, and are they
20 FOIA'able as well?

21 SUPERINTENDENT SNELLING: Here's what I'll
22 tell you. When anyone gets to the scene, any
23 supervisor, they're the incident commander until
24 our area deputy chief shows up. If there's no

1 area deputy chief, we also have a district
2 commander. If not, the chief of patrol will make
3 sure one is sent to that location.

4 When those documents go up the
5 chain, we maintain those documents. Could they
6 be FOIA'able? Absolutely.

7 You know, I'm a strong believer in
8 one thing, that is transparency. If -- and this
9 is why I started out by saying if there is
10 information that you want, and you want true
11 information, please FOIA that information.

12 The other thing is, there are
13 things on our website, things that we put on our
14 dashboard, that if you have questions about it,
15 you can go in and look at our dashboard. If you
16 don't have a clear understanding, we can dig a
17 little deeper.

18 COMMISSIONER MINOR: And then in respect to
19 our fellow commissioners' times, I will kind of
20 go to this question that I have. So the
21 Welcoming City Ordinance says that members are
22 not allowed to participate in or assist federal
23 immigration, but CPD members are also able to
24 respond to public safety concerns. I want to

1 know how you define public safety concerns? And,
2 two, I saw a video with City Council that made me
3 have that question in my mind that included
4 officers providing guidance to federal officers
5 about how they escape the crowd of protestors
6 outside by being able to funnel out some of the
7 members that they had detained without being
8 spotted. So I'm wondering if you would consider
9 that collaboration, or what you would deem that,
10 and what kind of happened in that case?

11 SUPERINTENDENT SNELLING: I'd have to dig a
12 little deeper in that because of what you're
13 saying right now, I don't have all the facts on
14 that, so I don't want to misspeak about that.

15 What I will tell you is this, if
16 there's some collaboration -- if our officers are
17 engaging in actual immigration enforcement, and
18 it's not about public safety, our officers will
19 be held accountable for that. That's an absolute
20 fact. The issue is this, when we have a large
21 crowd gathering, and we're trying to keep people
22 safe, there's always that fine line where it's
23 going to look like we're collaborating when we're
24 actually trying to keep people safe and stop a

1 situation from blowing up into something higher.

2 We have to get on the scene and
3 de-escalate these situations. If we're not
4 de-escalating these situations, they will
5 continue to escalate until someone is seriously
6 harmed. We want to avoid that. That is the
7 focus, and that has always been the focus, and
8 our police officers show up, and we try to get
9 those federal agents off the scene as quickly as
10 possible, because we know the longer they stay
11 there, the more emotions continue to rise.

12 If we keep that down, and we can
13 keep people from getting harmed or hurt, no one
14 has lost their life. That is the number one --
15 that was the number one concern after the
16 shooting of Ms. Martinez.

17 PRESIDENT TERRY: Commissioner Wortham, do
18 you have any questions?

19 COMMISSIONER WORTHAM: I will follow up there
20 then.

21 Superintendent, you talked about in
22 relation to people have repeatedly said this
23 thing about perimeters. If, hypothetically,
24 Chicago Police were to arrive on-scene of federal

1 immigration enforcement and a person or people
2 identify themselves as protestors were blocking a
3 City street without a permit to do so,
4 technically, legally, would that be an arrestable
5 offense by the Chicago Police Department?

6 SUPERINTENDENT SNELLING: It would.

7 COMMISSIONER WORTHAM: So when the Chicago
8 Police Department is, as some people are
9 describing, creating parameters, separating
10 federal immigration enforcement from said people
11 who describe themselves as protestors, is that in
12 an effort to exercise a discretion to not affect
13 arrests, but to allow them to protest and also
14 not interfere with the federal immigration
15 enforcement?

16 SUPERINTENDENT SNELLING: Well, this is
17 something we do all the time. You know, again,
18 to avoid escalating situations, especially when
19 emotions are high, and having this turn into a
20 melee, you know, we give people time. We give
21 them the ability to express how they feel.

22 As a matter of fact, on June 4th,
23 we actually had people who actually sat down and
24 blocked vehicles at some point. We gave them a

1 reasonable amount of time to move. We made no
2 arrests, and they eventually got up on their own
3 and moved.

4 It is an arrestable offense, but we
5 would prefer not to have to arrest someone for
6 something like that, especially when we know
7 emotions are running high because this could
8 escalate into a situation now where CPD is
9 actually in a physical conflict with protestors.

10 COMMISSIONER WORTHAM: A similar question.
11 If, hypothetically, on a scene a federal
12 immigration enforcement and CPD were to arrive to
13 the scene, and people describe themselves as
14 protestors were physically interfering with
15 federal immigration agents, such that they were
16 actually committing assault or battery, would
17 that be an arrestable offense by CPD?

18 SUPERINTENDENT SNELLING: Again, it would be
19 arrestable offense, which is why we were called
20 multiple times to locations where we had agents
21 who said that they were being attacked.

22 Now, we made no arrests in those
23 situations because no one could be identified who
24 had done those things.

1 So we -- again, we want to make
2 sure that we're doing everything that we can to
3 separate and keep the peace, so that we don't
4 have to arrest anyone in situations.

5 COMMISSIONER WORTHAM: If you are on the
6 scene, and it gets to that, and you are there and
7 can't identify people who identified themselves
8 as protestors who are physically engaging with
9 federal immigration agents, then, again, CPD's
10 technical legal responsibility would be to make
11 an arrest, correct?

12 SUPERINTENDENT SNELLING: Yeah, it would be.
13 But, again, discretionarily we make these
14 decisions for what we see at the time it's
15 happening.

16 Do we use discretion in these
17 situations? Absolutely.

18 COMMISSIONER WORTHAM: And I think that's
19 fine. That's something that hasn't been said in
20 this space yet, and so I want to make sure that's
21 clear, because we keep talking about harm and
22 people being harmed, and I'm not sure the concept
23 of CPD having exercised discretion on these
24 scenes is specifically articulated in these

1 meetings, and I want that to be very, very clear
2 as we talk about what the actual law is. Thank
3 you.

4 PRESIDENT TERRY: Thank you. So I'll just
5 make my question quick because I wanted to make
6 sure my colleagues had an opportunity. If there
7 are concerns about officers engaging or violating
8 the Welcoming City Ordinance, where can people
9 find recourse related to that?

10 SUPERINTENDENT SNELLING: Well, so we just --
11 there was just a vote on COPA being able to take
12 complaints. I'm not really sure where that is,
13 if it's passed at this point. I believe it's
14 still up, but I welcome that.

15 Listen, I welcome the vote for the
16 OIG to do an investigation. Again, because this
17 is transparency, and I welcome it. It's not
18 something that I'm recommending, but I welcome it
19 because I'm that confident that when our officers
20 are showing up on the scene, they're showing up
21 with the safety of the people of these
22 communities in mind.

23 Now, if that investigation shows it
24 has some proof that any of our officers engaged

1 in immigration enforcement, they will be held
2 accountable, but I have -- but I have enough
3 confidence to say without a doubt that any
4 outside entity I welcome to do an investigation.

5 There was a report that was done
6 that stated that I didn't trust the Bureau of
7 Internal Affairs to do the investigation. That
8 is not what I said. What I said was, if we did
9 that investigation internally as the Chicago
10 Police Department, most people are not going to
11 believe the outcome if it's not what they expect
12 it to be; therefore, a third-party doing an
13 investigation I welcome all day long.

14 PRESIDENT TERRY: Thank you so much
15 Superintendent.

16 Commissioner Driver actually has a
17 few questions.

18 COMMISSIONER DRIVER: Can you hear me?

19 PRESIDENT TERRY: Yes.

20 COMMISSIONER DRIVER: Thank you. And thank
21 you as well, Superintendent. I just have one
22 question, and it's related to hiring practices.
23 So I know that immigration and custom enforcement
24 historically since their creation in 2002, those

1 officers or agents transfer out at a very high
2 clip. I'm particularly concerned with ICE and
3 CBP agents who have been masked up, and we're not
4 able to verify whether they committed crimes on
5 the streets of the City of Chicago because we
6 can't identify them, and I know that there's a
7 hiring practice that CPD or DHR, wherever that's
8 housed, has where if you're prior law
9 enforcement, you can check that box and receive
10 some level of preferential treatment, although
11 I'm not completely versed on that, and this may
12 be a better question for the commissioner of DHR
13 but just wondering if you could speak to that at
14 all, or if there's any remedy to keep some folks
15 who have behaved very aggressively in our
16 communities from actually ending up as Chicago
17 police officers?

18 SUPERINTENDENT SNELLING: I couldn't really
19 make out the question.

20 PRESIDENT TERRY: So his question is about
21 hiring practices, and those who have potentially
22 been involved in activities as ICE agents being a
23 part of the Department.

24 SUPERINTENDENT SNELLING: So here's what I'll

1 tell you. We do a whole background
2 investigation.

3 COMMISSIONER DRIVER: President Terry asked
4 the question, but there was more to it. The
5 prior law enforcement box when applying for a
6 Chicago Police Department officer job, are those
7 agents who transfer at a very high clip from
8 federal agents into different municipalities
9 around the country, is there any remedy to stop
10 folks who have been -- who may have committed
11 crimes from becoming Chicago police officers and
12 getting preferential treatment?

13 SUPERINTENDENT SNELLING: If we have someone
14 who committed a crime, and we find that out
15 during a background investigation, we don't hire
16 those people. That's part of the background
17 investigation. It's the purpose for having that
18 background investigation. We're pretty clear
19 about those things that we can eliminate people
20 for.

21 Now, if the question is can we
22 eliminate someone because they held a job as a
23 federal agent somewhere else? No, that's not
24 enough to eliminate them from the process,

1 because that would be discriminatory and
2 discriminatory practices. But if we know that
3 someone committed a crime, they were accused of a
4 crime, these are things that could eliminate
5 someone, and in most cases, and probably all
6 cases, would eliminate them from the possibility
7 of becoming a Chicago police officer.

8 COMMISSIONER DRIVER: Just to clarify, I'm
9 not saying that anybody who's worked for a
10 federal agency should not be allowed to apply.
11 I'm asking specifically about the prior law
12 enforcement experience and how that translates to
13 preferential treatment, and my concern
14 particularly is that as a Chicago police officer,
15 you have body cams, you are not masked, you have
16 identifying markers on your uniform. We know
17 that a Chicago police officer committed a crime
18 because they are identifiable. ICE and CBP
19 agents have not been identifiable, and so
20 therefore it's very difficult to do a proper
21 background check because we don't even know who
22 these people are at all.

23 So I'm just asking -- here's a
24 better question. What happens when somebody

1 applies, and they have prior law enforcement
2 experience in the Chicago Police Department? I
3 apply for a job, and I was an ICE agent, what
4 preferential treatment would I receive?

5 SUPERINTENDENT SNELLING: Preferential
6 treatment? Did you ask what preferential
7 treatment they receive? None. There's no
8 preferential treatment for anyone coming from
9 another law enforcement agency.

10 One of the things you have to
11 understand about Chicago is that we don't take
12 laterals. We don't take transfers. Everyone
13 that we hire has to go through the same process
14 as someone who is becoming a law enforcement
15 officer for the very first time. They have to
16 sit for our exam. They have to go through drug
17 testing, proper background investigations. They
18 have to go through a PRQ. We put them through a
19 polygraph. Those are all of the things that we
20 go through before we hire someone. So there is
21 no preferential treatment for someone coming from
22 another law enforcement agency. They have to
23 start from scratch. So at one point, it was
24 determined that we would try to take laterals.

1 We don't do that anymore. We want to make sure
2 that when we're hiring someone, we've done a
3 proper background investigation, and there's no
4 preferential treatments for people who come from
5 other law enforcement agencies.

6 COMMISSIONER DRIVER: Thank you for
7 clarifying that. That's my only question,
8 President Terry. Thank you.

9 PRESIDENT TERRY: Thank you, Commissioner
10 Driver.

11 Thank you, Superintendent Snelling,
12 again for being here and for joining us on stage
13 and answering the Commission's questions. We
14 truly do appreciate your --

15 (AUDIENCE YELLING OVER SPEAKER)

16 PRESIDENT TERRY: Can we have them removed,
17 please?

18 (AUDIENCE YELLING)

19 (Proceedings were adjourned at 8:04
20 p.m.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

Re: Community Commission for Public Safety and
Accountability

Special Meeting April 2, 2026

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 18
day of April 2026.

MAUREEN A. WOODMAN, CSR
License No. 084.002740