

City of Chicago
COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

MEETING MINUTES

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| MEETING TYPE | Regular Meeting |
| MEETING DATE | Thursday, February 23, 2023 |
| MEETING LOCATION | Daley College |
| TIME CALLED TO ORDER | 6:41 pm |

ATTENDANCE:

| Commissioner Name | Present or Absent / In-Person or Remote |
|---|---|
| Rev. Dr. Beth Brown | Present, In-Person |
| Anthony Driver, Jr. – President, Chair | Present, In-Person |
| Oswaldo Gomez – Vice President | Present, In-Person |
| Yvette Loizon | Present, In-Person |
| Cliff Nellis | Present, In-Person |
| Remel Terry | Present, In-Person |
| Isaac Troncoso | Present, In-Person |

QUORUM PRESENT: Yes.

Acronyms:

CCPSA = Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability
CEIS = Criminal Enterprise Information System
COPA = Civilian Office of Police Accountability
CPD = Chicago Police Department
NAC = Noncitizen Advisory Council

AGENDA

- I. President Driver called the meeting to order.
- II. President Driver called the roll and established the quorum.
- III. The Commission held a public comment session. 3 speakers offered comments. Public comment may be viewed at the Chicago CCPSA YouTube page:
www.youtube.com/@chicagoccpsa.
- IV. Approval of Minutes

President Driver announced that the minutes for the Commission's meeting on December 12, 2022 had been shared with the Commission and are ready for approval.

ACTION ITEM #1: APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Commission meeting minutes from December 12, 2022. President Driver asked for debate. There was none. President Driver called for a vote.

Aye: Brown, Driver, Gomez, Loizon, Nellis, Terry, Troncoso

Nay: /

Motion carries.

V. New Business

A. Noncitizen Advisory Council

Commissioner Brown discussed the purpose of the Noncitizen Advisory Council (NAC). She explained that the NAC serves to ensure that the Commission is meeting high standards of inclusivity, access, and partnership with immigrant communities, and to provide meaningful perspectives, input, and guidance to the Commission on policies and issues that most impact non-citizen Chicagoans and their loved ones. She also reviewed the process the Commission uses to select candidates for the NAC, which involves an application and an interview process. She encouraged people to continue applying to join the NAC. She then introduced Angel Rubi Navarajo and announced his nomination as the NAC's fourth member.

ACTION ITEM #2: CONFIRMATION OF MEMBERS TO THE NAC

A motion was made and seconded to confirm the following individual to the Noncitizen Advisory Council:

Angel Rubi Navarajo

President Driver asked for debate. There was none. President Driver called for a vote.

Aye: Brown, Driver, Gomez, Loizon, Nellis, Terry, Troncoso

Nay: /

Motion carries.

B. Adoption of the Bylaws

President Driver reviewed the purpose and contents of the bylaws. He then discussed an amendment to remove three provisions from the draft bylaws related to public comment to allow staff to manage certain procedures related to follow-up on public comment internally.

ACTION ITEM #3: PASSAGE OF AMENDMENT TO THE DRAFT BYLAWS

A motion was made and seconded to incorporate an amendment to the bylaws removing Section IV.E.c-e.

President Driver asked for debate. There was none. President Driver called for a vote.

Aye: Brown, Driver, Gomez, Loizon, Nellis, Terry, Troncoso

Nay: /

Motion carries.

Commissioner Brown stated that the Commission and the Commission's staff will work together to ensure efficient and transparent follow-up to public comment, including the posting of letters to outside agencies.

ACTION ITEM #4: ADOPTION OF THE BYLAWS

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the bylaws.

President Driver asked for debate. There was none. President Driver called for a vote.

Aye: Brown, Driver, Gomez, Loizon, Nellis, Terry, Troncoso

Nay: /

Motion carries.

C. Dissolution of Committees

Vice President Gomez discussed the decision by the Commission to dissolve the committees. He explained that Commissioners would continue to make progress on a variety of topics between each regular meeting. The Commission is removing the committee structure because the word "committee" does not accurately reflect the Commission's work, and while each Commissioner performs work between meetings, actual authority only belongs to the Commission itself and not to any individual Commissioner or subgroup of Commissioners. The decision also creates more flexibility for Commissioners to work on different topics as supposed to being assigned to only specific topics.

ACTION ITEM #5: DISSOLUTION OF THE COMMITTEES

A motion was made and seconded to dissolve the following committees:

- The Executive Committee
- The Chicago Police Department Budget and Resource Allocation Committee
- The Policy Review and Development and Consent Decree Compliance Committee
- The Community Policing Committee
- The Chicago Police Department Goal-Setting and Performance Assessment Committee
- The COPA Committee
- The Police Board Committee
- The Noncitizens Advisory Council Committee
- The Community Engagement Committee
- The Ad Hoc Police Superintendent Search Committee

President Driver asked for debate. There was none. President Driver called for a vote.

Aye: Brown, Driver, Gomez, Loizon, Nellis, Terry, Troncoso

Nay: /

Motion carries.

Commissioner Terry stated that the work of Commissioners would continue to take place between meetings, with consistency and organization in the internal delegation of administrative tasks.

VI. Reports and Updates

A. Presentation on District Councils

Damon Smith, Deputy Director of the District Councils, delivered a presentation on the District Councils, outlining their role as elected officials and discussing their specific duties. He also stated that the District Councils-elect would attend a three-day training to prepare them to perform their duties upon inauguration. He reminded everyone that the election of District Councils will take place on February 28.

President Driver thanked Deputy Director Smith and underscored the importance of voting at next week's election and researching candidates for District Council. He shared a newsclip showing that the work of creating District Councils dates back fifty years in Chicago.

B. Report on the Police Board Nomination Process

Commissioner Troncoso shared an update on the nomination process for three Police Board vacancies. He stated that the Commission is moving closer to making nominations but is awaiting the results of background checks.

Commissioner Troncoso also took a moment to thank the Director of Public Affairs, Nicole Garcia, for producing a new infographic on the different responsibilities of the District Councils and the Commissioners. He also highlighted that today's meeting features new camera equipment to more effectively record Commission meetings. The aim for this technology is to respond to suggestions and requests from community members on how to improve the accessibility of meetings. The Commission has taken this feedback to heart and is thankful for it.

C. Officer Wellness

Vice President Gomez presented on the work he and Commissioner Loizon have been performing related to the health and wellness of police officers. He discussed the reasons behind this project and the importance of the work. Commissioner Loizon also spoke, sharing what they had learned from officers and some of their activities in examining the issue of officer wellness. These activities included meetings with health professionals and subject matter and policy experts, reviewing research, and holding focus groups with law enforcement officers. She outlined the steps she and Vice President Gomez will continue to take to move this project forward, including inviting public comment and input. They aimed to have speakers on officer wellness at a future open meeting.

Commissioner Loizon continued by discussing one of their findings, which is that one of the most significant causes of unwellness for officers is cancelled days off. She expressed concern that CPD had not effectively justified the cancellation of days off, including the lack of explanation as to how cancellations serve public safety goals. She stated that cancellation of days off and extended deployments should only be used for actual public safety purposes and not for political reasons. This issue is not just important for the wellness of officers, but also for the security of communities, because officer unwellness ultimately hurts the police's ability to protect and serve. Police officers had informed her and Vice President Gomez that the strategy of extended deployments actually hinders police-community relationships.

Commissioner Brown commented on the report on officer wellness. She raised questions about what officer wellness looks like. She also highlighted the importance of examining questionable officer-involved shootings and use of force in studying the issue of wellness. She suggested that, in addition to examining the cancellation of days off, the Commission needs to look at the issue of secondary employment, especially where officers take secondary jobs in private security. She raised concern for the lack of tracking of secondary employment issues by CPD. Commissioner Brown closed by raising the question of how officer discipline factors into officer wellness. She flagged the previous day's City Council Public Safety Committee meeting, which focused on the return to duty of an officer who had been taken off duty due to possible associations with the Proud Boys.

D. Commission Review of CPD's Draft General Order Prohibiting Associations with Criminal Organizations

Commissioner Terry discussed the Associations Order draft submitted by CPD to the Commission on January 13, 2023. She discussed the steps the Commission had taken to review the draft order, including holding a meeting with CPD staff. She mentioned that COPA and OIG had also submitted comments on the draft order. She said the Commission is

currently waiting for revisions to the order from CPD based on comments CPD received from the Commission, OIG and COPA. The Commission will share the revisions when it receives them. The Commission's comments and feedback on the draft will be due by March 14. The Commission is exploring ways to gather public comment beyond email to cultivate a higher level of community engagement. She encouraged the public to learn what a General Order is, what the current Associations Order says, and what CPD has proposed to change.

Commissioner Loizon added that the Commission's review is a preliminary review and not meant to replace the public comment period.

Commissioner Brown asked if the draft Order will include any definitions of hate speech or hate symbols. Commissioner Terry said that the Commission can raise those questions after it receives a new version of the order.

E. Status of Follow-up on Past CPD Commitments to the Commission

Commissioner Loizon discussed the Commission's past hearings on the CPD budget in October 2022, which the CPD Superintendent attended and which featured a discussion on CPD workforce allocation. She said the Commission also received information from the City's budget office as well as from other experts. A few weeks later, on November 3, the Commission published a report on the budget, as required by the Ordinance. The report raised concerns about resource use, community policing, training, and lessons drawn from past litigation against CPD. The report also included questions for CPD. Commissioner Loizon then explained that the Commission had recently been occupied with other accountability matters while also building its support staff. The Commission will soon return to the issue of the budget and follow up on the questions and concerns it previously raised, as well as new questions raised in the intervening time. The Commission will discuss these issues in upcoming Commission meetings. The Commission intends to review CPD's progress and will follow up accordingly. Going forward, the public can expect a portion of every future Commission meeting dedicated to reviewing progress on issues raised at earlier meetings. The intention was to not simply raise issues without returning to them. With these measures, the Commission aimed to better use its own accountability tools while giving the public more ways to keep the Commission accountable.

F. Inquiries Moving Forward

Commissioner Nellis discussed the videos of the Tyre Nichols murder by the Memphis Police Scorpion Unit, which occurred in the previous month, January 2023. He announced the Commission's decision to investigate Scorpion-like police practices in CPD. He highlighted two lawsuits, one from 2015 by the ACLU dealing with racial discrimination in unconstitutional stops, and the other in 2017 by the Attorney General of Illinois that led to the Consent Decree. He discussed recent input he received from Westside communities during listening sessions, regarding the continuation of unconstitutional practices by the CPD, including "jump-out boys," with a history of escalation and excessive force. The Commission had therefore decided to begin drafting data inquiries to CPD to identify any and all practices and cultural norms that produce these types of unconstitutional results, including via patrol, detectives, and specific special units. The Commission will also do an inquiry into what is constitutional community policing. Commissioners Brown and Troncoso will join Commissioner Nellis in leading this work. The Commission will share what it learns about CPD practices and constitutional community policing at future Commission meetings.

Commissioner Troncoso underscored the seriousness of any single incident like the Tyre Nichols' murder and the importance of finding out not only what is happening that needs to be changed, but also what the positive way forward looks like.

VII. Miscellaneous Business

G. Reminder about the draft CEIS gang database order

President Driver reminded the public that the draft CEIS gang database order submitted by the Commission to CPD is on the Commission's website. Members of the public can post comments online.

H. Reminder about Social Media

President Driver informed the public that they can contact the Commission via social media. He listed the following channels on social media:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ChicagoCCPSA/>

Instagram: @ccpsa_chicago

Twitter: @ccpsa_chicago

Youtube: @chicagoccpsa

VIII. Announcement of the Next Meeting

President Driver announced that the next regular meeting will be on Thursday, March 30, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

He closed by encouraging people to vote for Chicago's first-ever District Councils by election day on February 28.

IX. Adjournment

TIME MEETING WAS ADJOURNED: 8:12 pm