CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT OF POLICE DISCIPLINE
THE CHICAGO POLICE BOARD

The Chicago Police Board is an independent board of nine civilians responsible for deciding the most serious police disciplinary cases—those cases in which the Superintendent of Police recommends that a Police Officer be discharged from the Chicago Police Department.

How does a discharge case reach the Police Board?

All complaints received by Independent Police Review Authority (IPRA) → Investigation by IPRA or CPD Internal Affairs → If complaint is sustained (allegation supported by sufficient evidence), discipline is recommended to the Supt. → If the Supt. recommends discharge, written charges and specifications filed with the Police Board

How does the Police Board decide discharge cases?

Case assigned to hearing officer; Supt. represented by Corp. Counsel; Officer by his/her attorney → Disciplinary hearing (open to the public) → Decision based on the evidence → Final vote at public meeting → Written decision issued and posted on website

The Role of the Police Board

- The role of the Board is to be an impartial decision-maker that makes decisions based on the evidence made part of the record at the disciplinary hearing.
- All of the Board’s disciplinary hearings are open to the public. Both the Superintendent and the accused Officer have a right to due process—at the hearing they each have a right to present evidence and to cross-examine witnesses.
- The Board takes final action on all cases in public at its monthly meeting, where each Board member’s vote is announced and recorded.
- The Board posts on its website its written decisions, which include detailed explanations of the reasons for the Board’s findings.

Impartiality, due process, and transparency are essential values of any police disciplinary system—guided by these values, the Police Board promotes accountability and increases the public’s and police officers’ confidence in the process for handling allegations of police misconduct.

See the brochure Allegations of Police Misconduct: A Guide to the Complaint and Disciplinary Process for more detailed information.

For information about the Police Board visit www.ChicagoPoliceBoard.org

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