

City of Chicago
COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING TYPE	Regular Meeting
MEETING DATE	Thursday, March 30, 2023
MEETING LOCATION	Truman College
TIME CALLED TO ORDER	6:38 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	Absent
Cliff Nellis	Absent
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. 5 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

President Driver made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular Commission meetings held on January 26, 2023 and February 23, 2023, and from the special Commission meeting held on March 21, 2023.

Vice President Gomez seconded the motion.

President Driver stated the question and asked for debate.
There was none.

President Driver put the question on the table and called for a vote.

Aye: Brown, Driver, Gomez, Terry, Troncoso

Nay: /

Motion carries.

V. New Business

There was no new business before the Commission.

VI. Reports and Updates

A. Update on Superintendent Search

President Driver delivered the update. The search for the Commission's nominees to be the next CPD Superintendent was underway. The aim was to release details on the application process to interested parties by the end of the week of April 3. The Commission was finalizing information pertaining to bringing on a search firm or a consultant. The Commission was also meeting with subject matter experts. The Commission planned to hold four community engagement meetings, which will take place prior to interviews of candidates. The details of those meetings are below:

- Tuesday, April 11 at Kehrein Center for the Arts (westside)
- Wednesday, April 19, southside location to be determined
- Tuesday, April 25, virtual
- Thursday, May 4, northside location to be determined

President Driver emphasized the importance of community input to the superintendent search. He encouraged members of the public to get involved.

Commissioner Brown asked for President Driver to elaborate on "interested parties". He explained that interested parties means people who may want to apply for the position of superintendent. He also underscored the importance of transparency and the value of the public knowing when the application period opens and closes, as well as other relevant information about the application process – but not sensitive information about the identify of applicants. He said the Commission wants this superintendent application process to be the most transparent process the city has ever had for the position. He identified community engagement and transparency as priorities, while also being mindful of the privacy of applicants.

Commissioner Brown asked about the format of community meetings around the superintendent search, raising concerns about ensuring that the public has the ability to genuinely be heard. President Driver recognized Commissioner Terry for a response and mentioned that he and Commissioner Terry are leading the work between meetings to facilitate the superintendent search process. Commissioner Terry responded by explaining that the community meetings will take the form of listening sessions. She encouraged CPD officers to participate in these sessions as well. She explained that the meetings are for the Commission to listen and learn. President Driver added that unlike the public comment sessions in the Commission's regular open meetings where speakers have time limits and the Commissioners typically do not respond, at the community forums on the superintendent

search there would be more of an open dialogue. He described the meetings as being planned to have a townhall format.

Commissioner Brown asked about the Commission's plans for engagement opportunities with members of CPD. President Driver stated that the Commission is working diligently on specific opportunities for CPD members to get involved. The Commission is currently developing different ideas and possible approaches to accomplish this goal.

Commissioner Troncoso underscored the Commission's interest in hearing from CPD officers, especially from the rank and file. He raised the importance of an alternative way for CPD officers to give input outside of community meetings.

Commissioner Troncoso asked what President Driver and Commissioner Terry were looking for in a search firm to assist with the superintendent search process. President Driver answered that they were looking for a search firm that would have the ability to help identify qualified candidates with experience with consent decrees. They were also looking for a firm that would have a wide range of contacts that may be interested in the superintendent position, and that would excel at recruitment and would be community-driven and community-focused. Commissioner Terry echoed those sentiments and added the importance of a firm that would understand the value of placing community input at the forefront of the process. She also said they were looking for a firm that would play a supporting role and help with the heavy-lifting, but that the Commission would be the final decision-maker and would execute the ultimate task of reviewing applications and selecting nominees for the position.

B. Update on CPD Superintendent Goalsetting

Commissioner Brown delivered the update. Commission staff met with CPD to discuss the 2023 goals and expectations, including confirming the process and timeline for the CPD Superintendent to meet the 2023 goals. The plan was to schedule the quarterly check-in meetings between the Commission and Interim Superintendent Carter and his staff in the coming weeks. The purpose of the quarterly meetings was to discuss goals, establish expectations, resolve questions, and discuss any progress made.

C. Update on the CCPSA Draft Amendments to CPD General Order G01-03, Department Directives System

Vice President Gomez delivered the update. In November 2022, CPD introduced a new directive to create the Criminal Enterprise Information System (CEIS). The directive was a Special Order, which is a category of CPD policy. Unlike General Orders, Special Orders are not subject to the Commission's review and approval. The draft CEIS Order proposed an approach and database for CPD to collect and store information about people identified as being involved in criminal gang activity. The draft had not yet been enacted.

After the introduction of this draft policy, Commissioners reviewed the Inspector General's reports on past gang database activities by CPD, spoke with subject matter experts, reviewed research, and met with CPD leadership to better understand the CEIS proposal. Then, on January 27, 2023, the Commission introduced its own draft General Order to CPD. The draft amends CPD's General Order on directives, called the Department Directives System (G01-03). A summary of the draft Order was provided to the public as a handout at the meeting. The draft Order proposed a new section saying that if CPD intends to collect, maintain, and use data related to criminal enterprise membership (e.g. a gang database), CPD must present its policy as a General Order, making it subject to Commission approval. The effect

of this policy was to ensure that if CPD seeks to maintain any version of a gang database or maintain a list of individuals identified by CPD as members of gangs, CPD would first need to obtain approval from the Commission.

Under the CCPSA Ordinance, CPD then had 60 days to respond to the proposed policy with comments or suggestions on how to improve the policy. CPD responded in time and made the following suggestions:

1. CPD suggested not proceeding with the Commission's proposed addition to G01-03.
2. CPD suggested to instead amend the existing G01-03 directive to recognize the roles of the Commission and the Consent Decree in how CPD drafts and approves directives.
3. CPD suggested dividing its draft CEIS Special Order from November 2022 into two separate directives: a Special Order establishing CEIS and the procedures for entering and removing names from CEIS, and a General Order on the criteria CPD uses for identifying individuals.

Under the CCPSA Ordinance, the Commission had 14 days, or until April 3, to submit a response stating which suggestions the Commission would incorporate, which suggestions it would not incorporate, and reasons for any decisions not to incorporate a suggestion. The Commission planned to submit its response on April 3 and to continue working with CPD on finalizing the draft Order to ensure gang data-related policies are subject to Commission approval. The Commission also planned to make its response public for the purpose of transparency and accountability.

Before the Commission would take any final vote on the draft policy, the Commission planned to engage the public on the issue, including posting the final draft of the policy on its website and inviting community input. Members of the public can contact the Commission via the public comment email, CommunityCommissionPublicComment@cityofchicago.org, as well as via the Commission's social media outlets. Members of the public can also contact Commissioners directly. The Commission also planned to engage with the recently elected District Council members on the issue. The Commission encouraged all Chicagoans to participate as well.

Commissioner Brown asked what would happen if CPD and the Commission did not reach agreement on the draft order. Vice President Gomez explained that if CPD and the Commission were not in agreement when the Commission sent its response to CPD's comments, the law would require the two parties to work together for at least 30 days to try to reach agreement. The parties would also be free to continue working together beyond 30 days. However, after 30 days, the Commission could proceed to placing the draft policy on the agenda for a regular Commission meeting for a vote. If the Commission were to not take a vote on the draft policy within 60 days after the 30-day period, then CPD could request that the Commission proceed with a vote at the regular Commission meeting. He ended by stating that the Commission recognized the importance of working collaboratively with CPD to ensure the final draft of the order would support the safety of both CPD officers and community members.

D. Update on the CPD Draft Amendments to CPD General Order G08-03, Prohibition on Associations with Criminal Organizations

Commissioner Terry presented the update and referred the public to a handout summary of the draft order as well as a QR code directing people to the webpage on the order. The general order being amended, G08-03, prohibits police from being actively involved in

criminal organizations or associating with members of criminal organizations. CPD's proposed amendments included a new definition of "criminal organization" that included street gangs, hate groups, and terrorist groups. The proposed changes also added new types of prohibited activities such as fundraising, recruitment, and social media activity; the draft changes would forbid officers from taking part in these activities with criminal organizations or from associating with people who take part in these activities.

Under the CCPSA Ordinance, the Commission had 60 days to submit comments to CPD on the draft changes. The Commission submitted these comments, which called for changing the title of the order, revising the definition of "criminal organization", and adding a training section. The Commission's comments also suggested several ways for the Commission to monitor the effectiveness of the order by reviewing periodic data from CPD. CPD had 14 days to submit a response to these comments, or until March 28. While CPD did not submit any response before the deadline, CPD and the Commission had communicated since then and would continue the process of working collaboratively to finalize the order. The Commission also planned to conduct community engagement and gather public comments before taking any final vote on the draft order.

E. Update on COPA Goalsetting

Commissioner Brown delivered the update. She and Commissioner Loizon had recently met with COPA Chief Andrea Kersten to review her progress on her goals. Chief Kersten had completed nearly everything scheduled for the first quarter of the year. The only outstanding goal was around performance evaluations of her staff, which were near completion. Chief Kersten had also spoken with Commissioners to address concerns about the overall length of the disciplinary process, a topic that would be the subject of subsequent meetings with the COPA Chief. The Commission will report additional updates in April or May.

Vice President Gomez asked about the nature of the backlog, including any cases inherited from the agency that preceded the creation of COPA. Commissioner Brown stated that COPA had worked diligently to close those cases.

F. Update on Police Board Nominations

Commissioner Troncoso delivered the update. On Tuesday, March 21, the Commission held a special meeting and voted to nominate four candidates to the Mayor to fill two vacancies on the Police Board. The names of the nominees were Aja Carr-Favors, Rebecca Cook, Cathryn Crawford, and Andreas Safakas. The Mayor had 30 days from receiving the nominations to select or reject candidates. Under the Ordinance, candidates selected by the Mayor are subject to approval by City Council. The Commission planned to provide another update in April on the status of the nominees.

Commissioner Brown asked why the Commission chose to proceed with nominations prior to the inauguration of a new mayor. Commissioner Troncoso explained that the Police Board had been operating under a deficit of three members since August 2022, so it was important to not delay the filling of vacancies.

Commissioner Brown asked what would happen if there were any delays in the appointments by the Mayor and approval by City Council. Commissioner Troncoso said he and Commissioner Loizon would monitor the interest of candidates and repost applications if any candidates were to drop out. However, the Mayor is required to respond within 30 days of receiving nominations. President Driver also added that all indications from the Mayor's

Office suggested that her administration wanted to move expeditiously to complete the process of appointing new Police Board members.

VII. Announcement of the Next Meeting

President Driver announced that the next regular meeting will be on Thursday, April 27, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

VIII. Additional Announcements

G. International Transgender Day of Visibility

Commissioner Brown made an announcement to raise awareness about the International Transgender Day of Visibility. She conveyed to all transgender Chicagoans that the Commission understood that the transgender community faces unique public safety challenges. The Commission was intent on ensuring that the transgender community was included in the Commission's conversations on public safety. The Commission encouraged members of the transgender community to reach out to the Commission to share input and insights. Commissioner Brown also recognized the coming of multiple religious holidays and recognized the inclusion of faith-based, interfaith, and inter-spiritual groups in the Commission's work on public safety.

H. Clarification on Communications with CPD on G08-03

Commissioner Terry reiterated that CPD did communicate with the Commission regarding the draft changes to the Prohibition on Associations with Criminal Organizations Order, although CPD had yet to send a response to the Commission's comments on the draft changes. CPD would be getting back to the Commission on the comments.

I. Upcoming Community Forum on the Superintendent Search

President Driver reminded everyone that the Commission would be holding its first community forum on the superintendent search on April 11, 6:30 pm, at the Kehrein Center for the Arts, 5628 W. Washington Blvd. He expressed the importance of community input on the superintendent search.

IX. Adjournment

TIME MEETING WAS ADJOURNED: 7:31 pm