

City of Chicago
COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING TYPE	Regular Meeting
MEETING DATE	Thursday, August 31, 2023
MEETING LOCATION	Richard J. Daley College
TIME CALLED TO ORDER	6:30 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	Absent
Remel Terry	Present, In-Person
Isaac Troncoso	Present, In-Person

QUORUM PRESENT: Yes.

Acronyms:

CCPSA = Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability

COPA = Civilian Office of Police Accountability

CPD = Chicago Police Department

- 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. Several speakers offered comments. Public comment may be viewed at the Chicago CCPSA YouTube page:
www.youtube.com/@chicagoccpsa.
- IV. Minutes: Commissioner Brown moved, and Commissioner Gomez seconded the motion to approve the minutes. No debate was held on the motion, and it was carried with a vote of 6-0.

V. New Business

Police Board/COPA Policy Changes

Commissioner Brown provided an overview of the changes made to the selection process for the Police Board and COPA. Since the July meeting, several modifications and clarifications to the procedures have been made. These include the following.

1. Minor clarification to reappointment evaluations.
2. Changing the process for background checks so that the Commission doesn't have to arrange for criminal background checks on every eligible applicant.
3. Minor clarification on how applicants are selected for interviews.
4. Change that allows Commissioners to deny interviews to reappointment candidates.
5. Statement about Commissioners recusing themselves based on conflict of interest.
6. Changing the disqualification score from an average of less than 3 to an average of 2 or below

Commissioner Brown moved, and Commissioner Troncoso seconded a motion to adopt the changes to the Police Board Member Selection Procedures. There was no debate on the motion.

Motion passed 6-0.

VI. Reports and Updates

Update on COPA and BIA investigations

Commissioner Loizon provided an overview on the roles of COPA and BIA in police misconduct cases.

BIA: Unit within CPD that investigates allegations of police misconduct, particularly when it may lead to criminal charges.

COPA: Independent Department of city government that investigates allegations of officer misconduct that can lead to administrative or employment-related discipline.

Superintendent Search

Commissioners Driver and Terry provided an update on the Police Superintendent search.

The Mayor selected Chief Larry Snelling to be the next superintendent on August 13.

By ordinance, the Commission is required to hold a public meeting with the Mayor's nominee before the City Council meets to discuss the nominee's confirmation. The community meeting with Chief Snelling was scheduled for Thursday, September 7, at 6:30 at the National Museum of Mexican Art, 1852 W. 18th Street.

The meeting will provide an opportunity for the community to get to know Chief Snelling, ask questions, and make comments.

1. People will also be able to post questions or make comments on the Commission's website prior to the meeting.
2. The candidate must then be confirmed by the City Council.

After the City Council confirms a candidate, the Commission will hold another four public meetings with the new Superintendent.

Police Board Nominations

Commissioner Troncoso provided an update on the Police Board nominations. The Commission has held interviews to fill several Police Board vacancies. The commission has interviewed very qualified and impressive candidates to fill the vacancies.

In the next few weeks, the Commission will work to finalize recommendations to send to the Mayor. The Commission is hoping to vote on this at the September 28 meeting.

Update on Policy Making

Chicago Police Department Directives

Commissioners Terry and Loizon provided an update on directives the Commission is working on with the Chicago Police Department.

Commissioners Terry and Loizon stated that they have had several productive meetings with the Chicago Police Department on several directives.

The first update was on the Associations Order.

- CPD has accepted most of the Commission's suggested changes, including a request to include monitoring of and reporting on training and policy implementation.
- CPD will submit a draft Associations policy for review by 9/1/23 and once all Commissioners review the draft policy, CCPSA will begin to solicit community input.
- The community will be notified once the community review process begins.
- The goal is to vote on the updated order at the October 2023 meeting.

Commissioner Terry stated that this has been an incredibly collaborative process with the Chicago Police Department.

CPD Directives Related to Information on Criminal Enterprises and Street Gangs:

Commissioner Terry provided an overview.

- The Commission proposed changes to CPD's Directives System Order in January 2023. This was in response to CPD's attempt to adopt a directive establishing a "Criminal Enterprise Information System" in 2022.
- The Commission's proposed order would establish that the Commission has jurisdiction over any proposed gang data policies.
- CPD suggested different placement of proposed language.

Commissioner Loizon stated that they had a good discussion with CPD. She stressed that this order was an urgent priority for the Commission and believes they will be able to finalize changes and pass the General Order at the Commission's September 7 special meeting.

Commissioner Brown asked if CPD could still have a special-order regarding gang data. Commissioner Loizon stated that if the General Order is adopted, CPD could not create a special order on the collection of gang data.

Arbitration

Commissioner Driver began a special hearing on the recent decision by an arbitrator who was brought in to resolve outstanding issues in contract negotiations between the City of Chicago and the Fraternal Order of Police. In June 2023, the arbitrator ruled that under state law, the FOP contract must give police officers the option to have any misconduct cases decided by an arbitrator. Commissioner Driver noted that The Commission has prepared a one-pager for people to read.

Commissioner Driver stated that this decision is a big mistake for the people of Chicago. The most serious cases of police misconduct are currently handled by the Police Board which the Commission now oversees, and the Police Board makes decisions in public. Taking these cases to arbitration would take away transparency.

The arbitration decision would permit arbitration for even the most serious cases of police misconduct. For the arbitrator's decision to go into effect, the City Council must vote to amend the collective bargaining agreement with the FOP to reflect the decision.

Commissioner Driver noted that the Commission has the word "Community" as its first name, and said the Commission needs to look out for the citizens of Chicago.

Commissioner Driver added that the Commission's stance is not anti-police. Enhanced oversight helps everyone. Arbitrators can't be held accountable by the public. When a job comes with the power to take away property or life, the bar must be higher.

Commissioner Driver invited Tobar Richardson, Deputy Inspector General for Public Safety, to speak. Richardson provided an overview of the disciplinary process for officers. She recommended that the public go to the Inspector General's website at https://igchicago.org/publications/?_publication_department=chicago-police-department to review the grievance reports.

The IG believes that transparency is important. The Police Boards allows the public to see how cases are decided.

Commissioner Terry mentioned that arbitration was part of the current negotiations for the new CPD contract.

Commissioner Brown stated that the City Council must agree to new provisions.

Commissioner Loizon noted that while the City Council can stop the arbitrator's decision from being put into effect, it's possible that the FOP could fight that in court.

Commissioner Troncoso noted that the Commission needed to find out why the most likely outcome is reduced discipline.

Commissioner Loizon stated that it's important that the Commission exercises its oversight.

Commissioner Driver noted that a fairer Police Board that is accountable to the people is a better system than arbitration. Just because something is law, that doesn't make it just. This is a battle that the Commission must be willing to fight.

No further questions or comments were made.

VII. Announcement of the Next Meeting

President Driver announced that the next meeting will be September 28, 2023.

VIII. Close

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM. The Commission then moved to its closed session.