



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 23, 2022

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**MAYOR LIGHTFOOT ANNOUNCES ANDREA KERSTEN TO SERVE AS CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR OF THE CIVILIAN OFFICE OF POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY**

**CHICAGO**—City Council today approved the appointment of Andrea Kersten to serve as the next Chief Administrator of the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA).

"Andrea will undoubtedly bring a lifetime of relevant, public safety experience and subject matter expertise to this role," said Mayor Lightfoot. "Her unwavering commitment to civilian oversight and police accountability, as well as her previous experience serving as interim-Chief Administrator makes her a perfect fit. I want to congratulate Andrea on formally becoming COPA's next Chief Administrator and look forward to working with her closely to continue the vitally important work of this office."

As Chief Administrator, Kersten will lead COPA's mission to provide a just and efficient means to fairly and timely conduct investigations within its jurisdiction; determine whether allegations of police misconduct are well-founded; identify and address patterns of police misconduct; and make policy recommendations to improve the Chicago Police Department, thereby reducing incidents of police misconduct.

"It is an honor to be selected by Mayor Lightfoot and approved by the City Council at this important juncture in the City of Chicago," said Chief Administrator Kersten. "As the agency responsible for investigating allegations of police misconduct, my mission as Chief Administrator is to further position COPA as an agency of integrity, accountability and reform, that builds trust in the Chicago Police Department, gives a voice to impacted communities and further expands on our core values of integrity, transparency, independence and timeliness for all residents; civilian and sworn."

Kersten has over 15 years of experience working in the City of Chicago, most recently serving as COPA's Interim Chief Administrator. In this role, she is



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responsible for agency-wide decisions and the management of the 140 member staff. Additionally, she oversees the advancing COPA's mission and raising its public profile through communications with external stakeholders, impacted families, members of the media, and City Council. Prior to serving as the Interim Chief, Kersten served as Deputy Chief and then Chief of Investigative Operations, where she was responsible for all aspects of investigative operations and the management of approximately 80 investigative staff members. In this role she also maintained investigative productivity during the pandemic as staff worked remotely and oversaw COPA's response to the civil unrest in the summer of 2020, creating a specialized unit to handle its most high-profile cases.

Before joining COPA, she served as a Supervising Staff Attorney with the Independent Police Review Authority (IPRA), the Lead Administrative Law Judge at Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services and spent seven years at the Cook County State's Attorney's Office as the Assistant State's Attorney. Andrea is a graduate of North Park University, where she earned her B.A. in Sociology with a minor in Psychology and The John Marshall Law School, where she earned her Juris Doctor.

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