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CHICAGO POLICE BOARD

PUBLIC MEETING

JANUARY 16, 2014

7:30 p.m.

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PRESENT:

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

- DEMETRIUS E. CARNEY
- WILLIAM F. CONLON
- GHIAN FOREMAN
- RITA A. FRY
- SUSAN L. McKEEVER
- ELISA RODRIGUEZ

ALSO PRESENT:

- SCOTT ANDO, First Deputy Chief Administrator
of the Independent Police Review Authority
- WILLIAM BAZAREK, First Assistant General
Counsel to the Superintendent
- ALFONZA WYSINGER, First Deputy Superintendent
of Police
- MAX CAPRONI, Police Board Executive Director

1 MR. CARNEY: We're calling the Police Board
2 meeting of January 16, 2014 to order. I will start the
3 meeting by saying happy new year.

4 The first item of business is approval
5 of the minutes of the public meeting of December 12. Is
6 there a motion to approve?

7 MS. FRY: So moved.

8 MR. CARNEY: All those in favor?

9 (A chorus of ayes)

10 MR. CARNEY: The schedule of the Board's
11 regular monthly meetings for 2014 is made available on
12 the website and also in the blue books on the table.
13 Just kind of remember that the Board meets every third
14 Thursday of the month. We meet at 7:30. The only
15 exception is in the month of December when we meet on
16 the second Thursday and we meet at 6:30. So just
17 remember third Thursday, 7:30. Generally the meetings
18 are here at 35th and Michigan. If we move the meeting,
19 which we have from time to time to go out to the
20 communities and various districts, we will certainly
21 give you ample notice.

22 Our next public meeting will be held
23 here at 35th and Michigan on February 20, and the time
24 is 7:30 of course.

1 I will now ask for a motion to close a
2 series of executive sessions for the purposes of
3 considering the cases as authorized by the Open Meetings
4 Act.

5 MS. FRY: So moved.

6 MR. CARNEY: All in favor?

7 (A chorus of ayes)

8 MR. CARNEY: A report of disciplinary actions
9 taken by the Board in the past year has been made
10 available at this evening's meeting. This report and
11 the Board's written findings and decisions are again
12 posted on our website. Anything you want to know, you
13 can find it on our website. I think we're very
14 transparent in terms of the decisions of the Board and
15 any actions that we take.

16 Copies of orders issued by the
17 Superintendent during the previous month are listed in
18 the blue books on the back table, so feel free to take
19 one, and also on the police department's website as well.

20 The next item is the superintendent's
21 report. At this time I will ask for a motion to waive
22 the oral report and present it to the Board in writing.
23 Is there such a motion?

24 MS. FRY: So moved.

1 MR. CARNEY: All in favor?

2 (A chorus of ayes)

3 MR. CARNEY: At this time now I call upon
4 those members of the public who have signed up to speak
5 in advance. When your name is called, please step up to
6 the microphone. We ask you to limit your comments to
7 two minutes.

8 Andrea Reed from the Greater Roseland
9 Chamber of Commerce. Do you have public safety concerns
10 from your community? Please step up, and welcome.

11 MS. REED: Thank you. I'm going to let these
12 two gentlemen speak.

13 MR. CARNEY: Okay. That's fine. Good
14 evening, gentlemen.

15 MR. UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good evening.
16 Thank you very much. We would like to first thank you
17 all for giving us the opportunity to address you and to
18 hear our concerns from the Roseland area.

19 I was born in Chicago, educated in
20 Chicago, been in Chicago all my life. And it was my
21 understanding that there is one, Chicago but in recent
22 months the I'm hearing there are two Chicagos, one
23 that's begins at 59th and goes north and one that begins
24 at 59th and goes south.

1 What we have done as a committee is kind
2 of perused the city to see what kind of services are
3 being availed to certain areas. If you go down on North
4 Michigan Avenue, there are two, three policemen standing
5 on the corner, patrolling, observing and making sure
6 that the citizens are safe. When you come to the south
7 side of the city and particularly in my community, all
8 of the policemen are in vehicles driving up and down the
9 streets, and I assume that they are observing. I don't
10 see any apprehensions. I don't see any changes in
11 behavior in certain individuals.

12 In particular, when you start on
13 Michigan Avenue south at 121st and go to 103rd, you find
14 on any given period of time, on any given period of
15 time, there is solicitation all up and down the street.
16 It's rampant. What I mean solicitation, I mean there
17 are ladies soliciting you for services. You can't even
18 get out of your car that there's somebody there saying
19 can I do something for you, and it's gotten to the point
20 where the policemen might be driving by and they're
21 still doing these same negative behaviors. They're
22 selling drugs on the streets. They're selling loose
23 cigarettes on the streets, and it's all up and down the
24 corridor.

1 Occasionally I will go in to talk to
2 some of the merchants just to get a feel for how they're
3 coping with this type of behavior, and they're saying
4 it's adversely affecting their retail. They have a
5 certain market and clientele, and they're asking us how
6 do we get the people out of those -- statistically there
7 are 22 millionaires in the ninth ward, and I would
8 venture to say not one of them shop up on that North
9 Michigan -- not North Michigan. They do shop on North
10 Michigan. They don't shop on South Michigan Avenue.
11 You just can't go into -- you get out of your cars and
12 somebody is walking up to you, do you want to buy
13 something.

14 There's one store that I personally went
15 into called Urban Legend T-Shirts. The address is 11206
16 South Michigan Avenue, and I went into the store to talk
17 about some of the things that the Chamber of Commerce is
18 doing, how we're interacting in the community, what we
19 would like to see coming out of his store. I walked
20 into the store. He has a stack of CDs. So I asked him
21 are those bootleg CDs, and he said yeah. And I guess I
22 gave him a look, and he said are you going to report me?
23 I said yeah. We can't have that kind of behavior. It's
24 just loose and rampant in that community.

1 contact with the alderman.

2 MR. CARNEY: What is the response coming out
3 the alderman's office?

4 MR. UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, the alderman
5 feels that he can only --

6 MS. REED: We have a business task force and
7 so we have called in quite a few people of authority,
8 and fines have been administered to these businesses to
9 the tune of almost 100,000 collectively of all the
10 businesses that we have alerted them about. And, you
11 know, it's like when you're rich, you pay your fines,
12 and then we're left with the nuisance business. That's
13 what we're calling them.

14 And it really is insulting because in
15 order for us to have a business district, as a chamber
16 we want to attract new retailers. We want a thriving
17 business district. As you said, Roseland was known as
18 the jewel of the south side, and now it's just -- it's
19 ridiculous. Once people -- in the circles that I travel
20 in, when I say Roseland, I was the executive director
21 the Greater Roseland Chamber, people look at me with
22 sympathy, like oh okay, you know. It's Roseland and
23 nobody cares.

24 And so we want to change that. There

1 are people there that do care, but the problem is, as
2 the Board member said here, people are discouraged, and
3 so we travel outside of our community. We're building
4 up other economic areas while our supplies lay waste,
5 and I think with the police, a lot of the store owners
6 are saying if they call the police, they have footage --
7 we've encouraged them to have cameras. They show the
8 police the footage, and nothing is done. Some of them
9 know who these guys are, and they do absolutely nothing.

10 One store owner had seven hours of
11 footage of someone in his store. The robber climbed up
12 on the roof, cut a hole out and went into the store. To
13 his detriment, though, he has I call them garage doors
14 in the front. So he's in there robbing them blind, in
15 and out of there. Show the footage to the police, and
16 nothing was done. So a lot of the businesses are
17 discouraged. They feel they want to leave also, and
18 their businesses are suffering.

19 MR. LAWSON: I would like to address that
20 also. Here is a tale of two cities, the north side and
21 the south side. It's alarming when I get ready to go to
22 bed on a Monday night -- I don't know if you guys watch
23 CBS. They did a little exposé on -- their investigative
24 reporter, Pam Zekman, did a profile on the fifth

1 district police officers, tac officers and uniformed and
2 non-uniformed officers having an extended lunch break in
3 Merrionette Park. My community -- I live in Roseland.
4 I'm a lifelong resident of the south side, a lifelong
5 resident of the ninth ward, pay my taxes, a property
6 owner and pay all my debts. When I see my resources, my
7 assets deployed on a lunch break outside the district,
8 my community is on life support. If they had to
9 respond, if they had to, quote unquote, deploy their
10 assets to my neighborhood, I'm terminal. Would they get
11 there in time? I doubt that. I doubt that.

12 The perception is there is two Chicagos,
13 north of 59th Street and south of 59th Street. And I
14 think the French Embassy and the German Embassy agree
15 with that because they actually were saying the Tribune
16 and New York Times about do not venture past 59th
17 Street. My son graduated from Columbia College
18 downtown. There's students who say you travel lightly
19 when you get past 12th Street.

20 We need fair and equitable disbursement
21 of law enforcement resources. I think we can move
22 forward if we get all the support and all the
23 understanding that we pay our fair taxes for. And I
24 appreciate the opportunity to talk to you.

1 MR. CARNEY: The question I have is that --
2 you know, we have to do these in stages and priority,
3 especially if you get the department involved. So
4 what's the priority? Is it priority because of the
5 prostitution services? What's your priority?

6 MR. LAWSON: Prostitution, loose cigarettes
7 and the drugs.

8 MR. CARNEY: So your priority is to clean up
9 Michigan Avenue from 121st to 103rd. That's your
10 priority --

11 MR. LAWSON: That's the beginning.

12 MR. UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: In addition to the
13 one I did provide, there is a store called Stop & Shop.
14 It's 11101 South Michigan Avenue.

15 Now, we -- Mr. Lawson and I went in
16 there. They're using Link cards to buy cigarettes.
17 It's whatever you want to buy in that store with a Link
18 card. You can charge your battery on your phone and do
19 all that good stuff. He's selling loose cigarettes.
20 He's not carding people coming in there buying whatever
21 to buy cigarettes. A young kid came in there and bought
22 some cigarettes. He didn't card the kid. He just sold
23 him cigarettes.

24 And then there's the signage. We don't

1 understand how is it possible to open a store overnight
2 and put all this advertisement all over the windows.
3 You can't see in. They can't see out.

4 MR. LAWSON: If I was a police officer
5 responding to that location, I would not venture in
6 because I cannot see inside. I think there's a thing
7 called a mobile gang headquarters that's inside these
8 facilities. By blanking out of the -- there's no visual
9 inside looking in. As a police officer responding, I
10 would be hesitant to go in.

11 MR. UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And as a consumer
12 I'm hesitant to go in there. You don't know what's on
13 the other side all of those signs.

14 MR. LAWSON: I think there's a city ordinance
15 that only applies to certain ZIP codes, 60601, 02 and
16 03, but our side of town it's standard business model,
17 cover your windows up and letting anything go on inside.

18 MS. REED: This is considered a grocery store,
19 and so I don't even know why they got a license to even
20 open up a retail store.

21 MR. CARNEY: Well, I think you have to take a
22 two-prong approach to this, especially on the building
23 violations cases -- not cases, but alleged building
24 violations. You really have to push harder with your

1 alderman. But I think as to let's just say starting
2 cleaning up 121 to 103 Michigan, we've got to come up
3 with a strategy to do that. I think maybe we could
4 start with -- Mr. Deputy Superintendent, are you
5 available after the meeting? Who is the commander in
6 the 11th district?

7 MR. WYSINGER: That's the fifth district.
8 Commander Larry Watts. He's been there maybe about a
9 month and a half.

10 MR. CARNEY: Have you ever sought out the
11 commander?

12 MS. REED: We haven't had a chance to meet
13 with him yet.

14 MR. LAWSON: We had a relationship with Pat
15 Walsh.

16 MR. UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: She was the
17 commander, doing a fantastic job, I mean really a
18 fantastic job. She was visible. The policemen were
19 visible. We could talk to her. The community could
20 talk to her, and she gets promoted.

21 MR. CARNEY: She's a nice lady. I remember
22 her.

23 MR. UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And that's one of
24 the concerns we also have. If somebody is doing a great

1 job, I think it's fantastic, get promoted, move on to
2 the next level. However, why can't the next level be in
3 the Roseland area? Just put an office up and continue
4 doing what you're doing. But I guess that...

5 MR. CARNEY: I think you need to meet with the
6 Superintendent. Deputy Superintendent, can you respond
7 to that? I think it starts with the commander.

8 MR. WYSINGER: It does. But in agreement with
9 what they just said, Commander Walsh did do a great job,
10 which is why she was promoted to deputy chief. She's
11 actually the deputy chief for that entire area, so she
12 has the fifth district as well as four other districts
13 out there and her office is actually still out at 111th
14 Street. She's been moved across the hall, that's all.
15 So she's still there. She has more resources to give
16 you now than she had before.

17 MR. LAWSON: One question if you could answer.
18 I'm also a member of the Roseland Community Association
19 and we have a meeting next Tuesday, and they expected me
20 to ask how come our resources are at -- outside the
21 district taking an extended lunch break when, like I
22 said, our community is on life support and if there's an
23 emergency response that requires police support, we're
24 up -- we become terminal. If you could address that.

1 MS. REED: It takes a long time for police to
2 respond.

3 MR. WYSINGER: If you could take back to the
4 people at this upcoming meeting that the people that
5 were depicted in that video have been disciplined and it
6 was dealt with very, very quickly and hopefully that
7 will curtail it, but that incident had been under
8 investigation. We've come to a fruition, and those guys
9 and some of the young ladies have been disciplined.

10 MS. REED: Well, we will continue --

11 THE WITNESS: I've got one more store I want
12 to talk about, and it's called Ziggy's and their address
13 11958 South Michigan. There's loitering, extensive
14 loitering, prostitution, and they're selling loose
15 cigarettes out of that facility as well.

16 MS. REED: Well, I talked to him yesterday.
17 They're actually selling loose cigarettes outside of the
18 store. Someone is selling loose cigarettes on his
19 property. It's not him, but someone solicits his
20 customers. So that needs to be addressed.

21 We're going to continue to be here, so
22 don't be shocked when you see us again.

23 MR. CARNEY: I think what has to happen is
24 you're going to meet with the Deputy Superintendent.

1 He's going to set up a meeting with you and the
2 commander. And then you have to keep coming to tell us
3 what the progress is. This is going to be a process.
4 So you have to keep coming and make us aware of the
5 process. If you don't come, we will not know.

6 MR. REED: We will, and we thank you for your
7 time.

8 MR. CARNEY: Thank you for coming out.

9 Marisa Baker from the 11th district, and
10 John Perryman. Is Mr. Perryman here as well from the
11 11th district? You guys might as well come up together.

12 MS. BAKER: Hello. Happy new year.

13 MR. CARNEY: We're trying.

14 MS. BAKER: So I have come to give the update.
15 The last time we were here was last month, and right
16 before we came there was an arrest made at Francisco and
17 Madison where there had been drug dealing on that
18 corner. Since that arrest the corner has been quiet.
19 The main drug dealer, Marquis, who was working that
20 corner, who is my neighbor who lives at 2922, has been
21 released from prison and is dealing drugs out of 2922
22 West Monroe, the same building he's been dealing drugs
23 out of for the last two years.

24 So as I said before, one step forward,

1 two steps back. Now, remarkably, things seem to happen
2 right before we come to this meeting. So yesterday John
3 received a call from someone who said that the building
4 would be on the trouble buildings list and it would be
5 investigated. So that is good news indeed. It's been
6 two years that we've been waiting for this. So we
7 will -- we remain skeptical.

8 I think the main issue is that we also
9 spoke with the law department or the legal -- whatever
10 the law department of the CPD is. And we spoke with
11 Lindsey Baker and she said that between January of 2013
12 and November 2013 there were only four calls listed --
13 911 calls listed for narcotics at 2922 West Monroe,
14 which I know is incorrect because I have called on that
15 address so many times reporting drug dealing out of the
16 front door, out of the back door so many times. So that
17 number that OEMC is reporting is incorrect.
18 Unfortunately, that's the official record, and it's very
19 frustrating.

20 I know that OEMC and CPD are two
21 different departments. Apparently they do not speak to
22 each other because the only thing that I've ever heard
23 from CAPS in the 11th district is -- well, I've heard
24 two things, one is we can't help you. The other thing

1 is call 911, call 911, we need 911 calls, and then you
2 talk to this woman in the law department who says, well,
3 there's only been four narcotics calls on this address
4 in this 11-month period, which is ridiculous. It's
5 completely ridiculous.

6 Again, I know OEMC is not the same as
7 CPD, but I think what's happening is that these
8 departments aren't communicating. I filed an Inspector
9 General report about this problem with the 911 calls.
10 But I think the main problem is that the 11th district,
11 particularly with CAPS, anyone I've ever spoken to in
12 the CAPS in the 11th district, Sergeant Ward, Sergeant
13 Allen, call 911, call 911, we need to log these calls.
14 And it just seems like the police are putting up these
15 road blocks where they are giving us things to do that
16 basically amount to spinning our wheels. After years
17 and years and years we're getting information. They're
18 not making arrests. They're dragging their feet, and
19 it's been really frustrating. We got the call yesterday
20 that something is supposed to happen. Again, I'm
21 skeptical. I'm deeply skeptical.

22 MR. CARNEY: Correct me if I'm wrong. You
23 were at a meeting a couple months ago and you gave us
24 some -- you reported to the Board that there had been

1 some progress made as to the drug deals on your block.

2 So there was progress.

3 MS. BAKER: There was one arrest that was made
4 that stopped the drug dealing on that corner.

5 MR. CARNEY: So the drug dealing, is it still
6 stopped on that corner?

7 MS. BAKER: On that corner, I do believe that
8 the police can take some credit for the -- you know what
9 I'm saying, the kind of slow activity on that corner.
10 The individual that was arrested has not been on that
11 corner working. I have seen other people who are
12 associated with him and also live them at 2922 on that
13 corner. I think with the weather and with that arrest,
14 it's definitely slowed them down. But what I'm saying
15 is they're still dealing actually out of 2922 West
16 Monroe out of the front door as they have been for the
17 past two years, and it is the same people who are
18 working on Madison and Francisco.

19 MR. CARNEY: So your next priority -- I think
20 we have to deal in priorities. Your next priority in
21 terms of a community is to stop the drug dealing at 2922
22 West Monroe, correct?

23 MS. BAKER: Yes.

24 MR. CARNEY: John?

1 MR. PERRYMAN: I will try to keep it short.
2 You know, we've seen some success from coming to these
3 meetings, and we thank you for that. The problem is --

4 MR. CARNEY: That's why we're here.

5 MR. PERRYMAN: Yes, thank you.

6 The problem is we don't want to have to
7 come to these meetings anymore, but I feel if we don't
8 come, everything is going to back slide. It's starts
9 off we call -- if there's a problem, we call 911. When
10 that doesn't work, we go to CAPS. When that doesn't
11 work, we try and talk to the commander. When that
12 doesn't work, we talk to the tactical. We talk to
13 whoever we can. We talked to our alderman, and now
14 we're here.

15 I would like to know -- obviously the
16 system is broken, at least in the 11th it's broken. Can
17 you please tell me specifically some strategies that we
18 can use so we don't have to come here? When we give
19 information, we're saying there's drugs coming out of
20 this house at this time with this person, we know their
21 name often, wearing these clothes, the same clothes
22 every day, the same time every day for months and, the
23 police kind of give me a hmm, we'll put a blue and white
24 on it, which is the worst strategy because as soon as

1 the blue and white leave, they start right back up. I
2 want to know what are we going to do?

3 Just before you answer, the things that
4 I have seen work, undercover buys work. They work. I
5 don't know why we had to wait five months to get someone
6 to get out there to do a buy, but it worked. The
7 narcotics, it works. And when the police come quickly
8 on 911, that works. But if it's 45 minutes, don't even
9 bother. It doesn't work. And it's very frustrating to
10 call 911 just to get the numbers up so that we can be
11 taken seriously.

12 So I would like to know -- I'm just
13 going to put this out there. I want to know
14 specifically what has been going on? We've been talking
15 about this for months. I want to know specifically
16 what's going on so that we can start -- when the
17 community comes with good information, so the police
18 will actually take meaningful action on.

19 MR. CARNEY: What I would like to recommend is
20 let's start with a strategy for 2022. I think that's a
21 good start I think in terms of working with the
22 department in terms of what you would like to see. I
23 think you would just like the drug dealing to stop --

24 MR. PERRYMAN: I'm also speaking about future

1 problems. I didn't bring up 2922. I'm asking a
2 specific question.

3 MR. CARNEY: But I think you've got to take it
4 example by example because when you say globally, I
5 don't know if we can do it globally.

6 MS. BAKER: This is the thing is that --

7 MR. CARNEY: Because honestly police can't be
8 everywhere.

9 MS. BAKER: No, I understand that. I want to
10 give you an example. This guy Marquis, who was arrested
11 and is still dealing out of 2922, four years ago he was
12 dealing out of 2950 West Monroe. Two years ago he was
13 dealing by the liquor store on the other side of
14 Sacramento and then he was Madison and Francisco and in
15 the past year he's been dealing out of where he lives,
16 2922 West Monroe. This guy has caused \$2,600 of damage
17 on my car. He's threatened us, and he walks around the
18 block and says this is my block. He says this to
19 people. He says this to old ladies. And this is why --
20 he gets arrested and then two weeks later he's dealing
21 drugs out of that building because there is no threat of
22 apprehension. There's no credible threat that the
23 police are posing to anyone dealing drugs in my
24 neighborhood.

1 MR. CARNEY: So there's a drug problem, and
2 then there's intimidation of the community.

3 MS. BAKER: Oh, yeah, totally. Oh, yes.

4 MR. CARNEY: Deputy Superintendent, can you
5 respond to that? I think which we need to start with a
6 strategy.

7 MR. WYSINGER: It sounds like we have to first
8 make a strategy already in place, and that's by them
9 getting this thing on the radar with the trouble
10 buildings unit. I think it has been cited. I will give
11 this to the narcotics section. They can start an
12 operation in and around the particular location. That
13 will be someone --

14 MR. CARNEY: Can they meet with someone in
15 narcotics to develop a strategy? Because they keep
16 coming back, and I would like for the Board to be able
17 to say -- at least to say we have progress here. It may
18 not be big, but this here, this here, this here. This
19 is going to take a while.

20 MR. WYSINGER: I can actually have a narcotics
21 sergeant that's assigned to that district contact you
22 guys tomorrow to start putting a plan in place to try to
23 get this problem eradicated.

24 MR. CARNEY: When you to contact, where would

1 he meet with them? Can he meet with them here?
2 Sometimes I think the people come and they need to get
3 out of their community to meet with the police officers.
4 So if they can meet at 35th and Michigan, this gives
5 them a safe haven.

6 MS. BAKER: We always have police at our
7 house, in front of our house. We don't care. They can
8 come in the front door.

9 MR. WYSINGER: After I give you the contact
10 person, they can decide exactly where you want to meet,
11 something that is comfortable for them and would be
12 comfortable for the supervisor also. So you guys can
13 actually determine location. If you don't want them to
14 come to the house, you can meet someplace nearby.

15 MR. CARNEY: Or you can meet here.

16 MS. BAKER: I would request that that phone
17 call actually happen sooner rather than the day before
18 the meeting. Do you know what I mean?

19 MR. CARNEY: Can you make it tomorrow?

20 MR. WYSINGER: He or she will call you
21 tomorrow.

22 MR. CARNEY: Make sure you get together and
23 exchange numbers, so you can follow up so we can make it
24 happen. Thanks, folks. Just keep coming. I know --

1 people from Roseland, they started and we've made some
2 progress, but it's going to take a while. So unless you
3 come and talk to us, we will never know.

4 Crista Noel? Robert More?

5 I would like to say that the meeting
6 this evening was a very positive meeting because I think
7 that's why we're here, to help citizens in the various
8 communities. It seems we've made a little progress in
9 the 11th district, and we certainly would like to see
10 you make some progress as well in the Roseland district.
11 So thank you for coming.

12 At this time there's no other person
13 signed up to speak. Is there a motion to adjourn the
14 meeting?

15 MS. FRY: So moved.

16 MR. CARNEY: We will see you folks next month.

17 Thank you.

18 (Meeting adjourned)

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