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COMMUNITY COMMISSION for PUBLIC SAFETY
and ACCOUNTABILITY

July 15, 2024
6:30 p.m.
JLM Community Center
2622 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois

PRESENT:

- MR. ANTHONY DRIVER, Commission President;
- MS. REMEL TERRY, Commission Vice President;
- MS. SANDRA WORTHAM, Commission member;
- MS. KELLY PRESLEY, Commission member;
- MS. ABIERRE MINOR, Commission member;
- MR. AARON GOTTLIEB, Commission member;
- MR. ADAM GROSS, Executive Director.

1 PRESIDENT DRIVER: Commissioner Driver is
2 present. Commissioner Gottlieb.

3 COMMISSIONER GOTTLIEB: Present.

4 PRESIDENT DRIVER: Commissioner Minor.

5 COMMISSIONER MINOR: Present.

6 PRESIDENT DRIVER: Commissioner Presley.

7 COMMISSIONER PRESLEY: Present.

8 PRESIDENT DRIVER: Commissioner Wortham.

9 COMMISSIONER WORTHAM: Present.

10 PRESIDENT DRIVER: Commissioner Terry.

11 VICE PRESIDENT TERRY: Present.

12 COMMISSIONER DRIVER: All six members of the
13 Community Commission of Safety and Accountability
14 are present, and we have a quorum and can conduct
15 Commission business.

16 Next order of business is public
17 comment. If you would like to share something
18 related to the Commission's work on Public Safety
19 and Accountability, you have a few options. You
20 can speak up at the meeting. You can also submit
21 public comment in writing by emailing to
22 CommunityCommissionPublicComment@CityofChicago.
23 org, or you can bring a copy of your comment to
24 the Commission's public meetings and give it to

1 someone on the Commission or someone on the
2 Commission staff.

3 People who wanted to speak during
4 the public comment period were asked to submit
5 their names in writing earlier today. Names were
6 drawn at random by a member of the Commission
7 staff. Speakers will be called in the order in
8 which their names were drawn. If your name is
9 called to offer public comment, we ask you to
10 approach the microphone and line up in the order
11 in which the names were drawn.

12 If for any reason you are unable to
13 come to the microphone, please flag a member of
14 our staff so a microphone can be brought to you.
15 When it is your turn to speak, please state your
16 name and spell your name, then offer your
17 comments. Each speaker will have two minutes.
18 We've allotted a total of 20 minutes for public
19 comment.

20 First speaker is (Inaudible).

21 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Congratulations, all of
22 you. Welcome to CCPSA, and I'm looking forward
23 to embarking on this new relationship body. I
24 just have a couple of things, tidbits. Please

1 engage with District Councilors, especially in
2 your district. And I know it's a big ask because
3 everybody's -- but try to attend some of the
4 District Council meetings, not for invitation,
5 but try to show up at the meeting. And -- that's
6 all I can think of right now. But, again,
7 welcome. Congratulations.

8 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Thank you. I encourage you
9 all to -- Superintendent Snelling that should
10 reopen -- or he should listen to -- I'm part of
11 an organization Southern Poverty Law Center. And
12 we -- we wrote a letter to the City about the
13 failed investigation from BIA, and I hope some of
14 you read it. If not -- so it's a failure for a
15 couple of reasons. The biggest thing is that the
16 investigators at BIA did not apparently know that
17 an archived version of the Oath Keepers website
18 exists, and that they could compare what those --
19 that website said at a time when the officers
20 were joining, instead of just accepting the word
21 of the officer.

22 The BIA did not investigate an
23 individual, a fellow officer, who told the other
24 eight officers -- or a number of the eight

1 officers about the Oath Keepers. BIA failed to
2 investigate or even talk to people like that
3 fellow officer, but also anybody outside of that
4 organization. They did not talk to anybody, no
5 experts at the ADL who leaked the list, no
6 experts at the SPLC and other organizations that
7 look into this matter. And the most important
8 thing is BIA really failed to -- really ignored
9 how Oath Keepers participated in the group, and
10 the accused actually talk about how they
11 participated in the group in their -- in their
12 interviews with BIA. Some of the things that
13 they did, go to shooting competitions. A couple
14 of other things they did, go to gun shows. This
15 is how you participated as an Oath Keeper.

16 So I'm just encouraging you to look
17 at our letter SPLC wrote to get a little bit more
18 information on why this investigation failure to
19 push -- as well as to push Superintendent
20 Snelling to think about BIA's investigation.

21 PRESIDENT DRIVER: Thank you.

22 MS. MIJANA: My name is Faayani Aboma Mijana.
23 You have the spelling up there, but it's
24 F-A-A-Y-A-N-I, A-B-O-M-A, M-I-J-A-N-A. I'm a

1 member of the Chicago Alliance against Racism and
2 Political Oppression, and I'm a resident of the
3 14th District where one of the officers named in
4 the Oath Keeper roster is a sergeant in my
5 district, and residents of my district, including
6 myself and our District Councilor, have been
7 horrified to learn about the Oath Keeper ties of
8 this officer.

9 And we're very well aware about the
10 policy that the CCPSA passed -- the interim
11 CCPSA, and we think that the BIA's so-called
12 investigation where officers were interviewed for
13 no more than 30, 40 minutes is a mockery of this
14 Commission that the people established. It is a
15 mockery of, you know, the democratic process.

16 And so I'm here to lend my support as a member of
17 the Alliance and a resident of the 14th District
18 where this officer is for, you know, putting
19 forward an investigation in another arm, because
20 we cannot trust the police. The police
21 themselves, they've shown us time and time again
22 that they can't do it. And so, you know, we're
23 putting forth the demand that be put somewhere
24 else with the OIG. So thank you.

1 PRESIDENT DRIVER: Thank you.

2 Our next speaker is Grace Patino.

3 MS. PATINO: Hi. My name is Grace. I'm a
4 member of the Chicago Alliance Against Racism and
5 Political Oppression.

6 Hi again. I'm with CAARPO. I'm
7 also a resident of the 17th District, which is
8 where another one of the identified officers with
9 ties to the Oath Keepers works.

10 In less than a 20-minute interview
11 with the BIA, an officer in 17 -- you know, a
12 less than 20-minute interview is deficient.

13 Retamozo is an officer with a
14 sordid past. He has a past incident where he
15 wrongly arrested a black man for drugs that did
16 not belong to him. Took money from the victim
17 and failed to inventory or return the money,
18 conducted a strip search without prior written
19 approval from the watch commander, and failed to
20 document on the arrest report that a strip search
21 was conducted on the victim.

22 In layman's terms, that sounds a
23 lot like planting drugs on someone and sexually
24 assaulting them. Instead of Retamozo's

1 higher-ups holding him accountable, the sergeant
2 at the time allegedly then kicked the victim in
3 the groin, threatened to kill the victim, and
4 directed profanities at him.

5 As a result of a complaint being
6 filed about this -- and this was back in 2007 --
7 Retamozo was suspended for one day.

8 So based on stories like that, I
9 don't see how we're supposed to trust the police
10 to investigate themselves with this Oath Keeper
11 business.

12 The entire point of the creation of
13 the ECPS ordinance was to prevent another Laquan
14 McDonald, another Rekia Boyd, or Adam Toledo. We
15 need the CCPSA's help to make this work, and we
16 need all of our District Councilors to make this
17 work.

18 I'm calling on you all, the newly
19 appointed CCPSA, my District Councilors in the
20 17th, and all District Councilors in the City to
21 demand the investigation into the Oath Keepers be
22 reopened, and really for all of these officers
23 associated to be fired.

24 We also need the names and

1 complaint histories of all officers working in
2 the 17th District, a request that the sergeant
3 denied of one of my District Councilor, and we
4 need an end to the racist tact teams, pretextual
5 traffic stops. Dexter Reed should still be here
6 today. And we want to know what you all are
7 going to do to ensure another execution doesn't
8 happen.

9 PRESIDENT DRIVER: Is there anybody
10 virtually? I see a David signed up. Is he a
11 virtual? Is he ready? Let's go ahead.

12 MR. ORLIKOFF: Thank you. My name is David
13 Orlikoff. I'm an elected District Councilor in
14 the 14th District serving Humboldt Park, Logan
15 Square, surrounding areas.

16 I'm not exactly sure what the
17 investigation to be voted on today pertains. I
18 tried to ask about that and have not heard. But
19 I can only assume that since OIG already did an
20 investigation report on the BIA's investigation
21 itself and the policy passed by CCPSA, that the
22 request is that OIG do an investigation into the
23 individual officers known to be Oath Keeper
24 members. I do support that definitely.

1 There are grave issues with the
2 lack of investigation conducted by BIA, notably
3 Timothy Moore, the Deputy Director of the Bureau
4 of Internal Affairs, said that the probe was not
5 deficient but specifically he said, None of the
6 accused members stated that they had knowledge
7 that the Oath Keepers were a violent extremist
8 group, nor did they state that they had
9 intentions of joining a violent extremist group.

10 So, we had warned you, a lot of
11 people, that this would happen, this exact thing.
12 And that's why, in general, BIA cannot retain
13 jurisdiction over this policy.

14 Certainly the bare minimum for BIA
15 having jurisdiction over a policy would be that
16 there is a public list of groups that are banned,
17 and that the public is aware of that. The fact
18 that BIA fought for this to be private and
19 conducted in private shows that they cannot be
20 trusted, as well as the outcome that we received.
21 But that amounts to them saying unless the
22 officers tell us to our face that they are
23 racist, they will stay on the force. That is
24 absurd.

1 You know, this has done so much
2 damage to the City already. And BIA needs to
3 lose jurisdiction, not just in this case, but in
4 all cases at least similar to this.

5 According to the deputy --
6 according to Deborah Witzburg of the Office of
7 Inspector General, even a member of the Klu Klux
8 Klan can now join CPD, so long as they are not
9 telling officers they are racist, so long as
10 there aren't other information about that. So
11 this is a step backward, and it needs to be
12 rectified not in just these eight cases but all
13 cases. BIA cannot retain jurisdiction while
14 serving racist officers. Thanks.

15 PRESIDENT DRIVER: Thank you. We've reached
16 the end of our public comment period. Thank you,
17 again, to all of our speakers. We value your
18 input.

19 The next order of business is new
20 business. The Community Commission for Public
21 Safety and Accountability has received
22 information from multiple knowledgeable sources
23 that raise serious concerns about the operation
24 of the Civilian Office of Police Accountability.

1 The Commission has oversight authority over COPA.

2 The information we have received
3 concerns the quality of integrity of COPA's
4 investigations, the quality and integrity of
5 COPA's disciplinary recommendations, and
6 retaliation against COPA employees who have
7 raised concerns about COPA's investigations and
8 recommendations.

9 The Commission has received
10 complaints from multiple, credible sources, and
11 the information they have provided is consistent.
12 Considering the importance of civilian oversight
13 and the work that COPA does, we take these
14 complaints very seriously.

15 Due to the nature of the complaints,
16 we want to ensure that they are investigated.
17 Because the Commission isn't an investigative
18 body, we will be voting later tonight on whether
19 to take the information we have received, share
20 it with the Office of the Inspector General, and
21 recommend that the Office of Inspector General
22 conduct a fair, thorough, and timely audit and
23 investigation.

24 The Office of Inspector General's

1 mission is to promote economy, effectiveness,
2 efficiency, and integrity by identifying
3 corruption, waste, and mismanagement in city
4 government.

5 The Office of Inspector General
6 conducts investigations, audits of City programs,
7 and operations, and reviews of City programs,
8 operations, and policies. Based on its
9 inquiries, the Office of Inspector General can
10 issue reports on its findings and make
11 recommendations.

12 Under the Commission's ordinance, if
13 the Commission recommends an Inspector General
14 audit, the Public Safety Inspector General must
15 respond to the Commission within ten business
16 days.

17 If the Inspector General conducts an
18 inquiry, we believe that under the Inspector
19 General's ordinance, the Commission would receive
20 a copy of the Inspector General's final report
21 and recommendations, and then based on the report
22 and recommendations, the Commission can determine
23 whether any further Commission action is proper.

24 COMMISSIONER PRESLEY: In taking this vote,

1 we want to emphasize that this vote does not mean
2 that the Commission is taking a position on the
3 strength or accuracy of the information that has
4 been brought to us. It is an acknowledgement
5 that the allegations are serious and credible,
6 and that the Commission doesn't have the
7 investigative tools to assess as well as is
8 necessary whether the allegations are accurate,
9 and that the information we received should be
10 reviewed by the body that is in the best position
11 and has the best tools and resources to assess
12 the strength and accuracy of the information and
13 to make appropriate findings and recommendations.

14 COMMISSIONER GOTTLIEB: The community must
15 have full confidence in the quality and integrity
16 of COPA's investigations. I fully support the
17 role COPA plays as an independent civilian body.

18 I also believe that we are taking
19 this step because we appreciate the hugely
20 important role that COPA must play. We are
21 committed to COPA's success, and we believe that
22 a fair and thorough investigation will help us
23 understand the steps that must be taken to ensure
24 that COPA succeeds in its mission.

1 Our goal is for fair-minded people
2 to be able to trust COPA's effectiveness and
3 integrity, and if an investigation reveals
4 serious issues, we need a road map for what COPA
5 needs to do to earn that trust.

6 COMMISSIONER WORTHAM: Commissioner Wortham
7 here. So it was my understanding when we
8 approved this special meeting, that we were doing
9 so to entertain the motion as Commissioner Driver
10 articulated, not to offer any opinions as to our
11 value of COPA (AUDIO GLITCH) the purpose that we
12 approve this meeting, which is voting on the
13 motion and not expressing my individual opinions
14 today about COPA or civilian oversight. I will
15 reserve those for a time where we've articulated
16 that as our purpose.

17 PRESIDENT DRIVER: Thank you, Commissioners.
18 Do we have a motion?

19 COMMISSIONER MINOR: I move that the
20 Community Commission for Public Safety and
21 Accountability refer information the Commission
22 has received to the Office of Inspector General
23 and recommend to the Public Safety Inspector
24 General that the office conduct audits and any

1 other investigations and reviews that the facts
2 suggest may be warranted related to the quality
3 and integrity of COPA's investigations, the
4 quality and integrity of COPA's disciplinary
5 recommendations, and retaliation against COPA
6 employees who raise concerns about COPA's
7 investigations and recommendations.

8 COMMISSIONER WORTHAM: Second the motion.

9 PRESIDENT DRIVER: Commissioner Minor has
10 made a motion and Commissioner Wortham has
11 seconded it.

12 Those in favor of the motion to
13 refer information the Commission has received to
14 the Office of Inspector General and recommend to
15 the Public Safety Inspector General that the
16 office conduct audits and any other
17 investigations and reviews that the facts suggest
18 may be warranted related to the quality and
19 integrity of COPA's investigations, the quality
20 and integrity of COPA's disciplinary
21 recommendations, and retaliation against COPA
22 employees who raise concerns about COPA's
23 investigations and recommendations, please say
24 aye.

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(CHORUS OF AYES.)

PRESIDENT DRIVER: Those opposed, please say
nay.

(NO RESPONSE.)

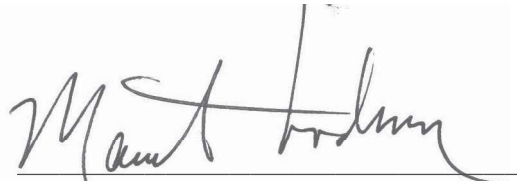
PRESIDENT DRIVER: The ayes have it and the
motion carries. The Commission will refer
information it has received to the Office of
Inspector General and recommend to the Public
Safety Inspector General that the office conduct
audits and any other investigations and reviews
that the facts suggest may be warranted related
to the quality and integrity of COPA's
investigations, the quality and integrity of
COPA's disciplinary recommendations, and
retaliation against COPA employees who raise
concerns about COPA's investigations and
recommendations.

Our next order of business is
adjourning the meeting. Thank you.

(WHEREUPON, the proceedings
were adjourned.)

1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
2) SS:
3 COUNTY OF C O O K)

4 MAUREEN A. WOODMAN, C.S.R., being first
5 duly sworn, says that she is a court reporter
6 doing business in the City of Chicago; that she
7 reported in shorthand the proceedings had at the
8 hearing of said cause; that the foregoing is a
9 true and correct transcript of her shorthand
10 notes, so taken as aforesaid, and contains all
11 the proceedings of said hearing.

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18 MAUREEN A. WOODMAN, CSR
19 License No. 084.002740
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