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COMMUNITY COMMISSION for PUBLIC SAFETY
and ACCOUNTABILITY

August 14, 2024
6:30 p.m.
DuSable Museum
740 East 56th Street
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 comment. If you would like to share something
2 related to the Commission's work on public safety
3 and accountability, you have a few options. You
4 can speak at a meeting. You can also submit
5 public comment in writing by emailing your
6 comment to
7 CommunityCommissionpubliccomment@CityofChicago.
8 org, or you can bring a copy of your comment to
9 one of the Commission's public meetings and give
10 it to someone on the Commission or someone on the
11 Commission staff.

12 People who wanted to speak during
13 the public comment period tonight were asked to
14 submit their names in writing earlier today.
15 Names were then drawn at random by a member of
16 the Commission staff. Speakers will be called in
17 the order in which their names were drawn. If
18 your name is called to offer public comment, we
19 ask that you approach the microphone and line up
20 in the order in which your name is called. When
21 it is your turn to speak, please say your name,
22 spell your name, and then offer your comments.
23 We have allotted a total of 20 minutes for public
24 comment.

1 For the purposes of a quorum,
2 Commissioner Minor is now present, and all six
3 members of the Community Commission of Public
4 Safety and Accountability are here.

5 Our first speaker -- I'm going to
6 call you in groups of three, so you can line up
7 at the microphone.

8 First speaker is Shayla Spearman,
9 Kamaria Powell, followed by Willie Griffin. You
10 can begin.

11 MS. SPEARMAN: Hello. My name is Shayla
12 Spearman. S-H-A-Y-L-A. S-P-E-A-R-M-A-N. I'm a
13 peacekeeper with Giving Others Dreams located on
14 the southeast side of Chicago.

15 We are in need of an office of gun
16 violence reduction, a central place solely to
17 focus on the why and how to reduce the -- and or
18 stop the daily use of gun violence and the mental
19 impact that it's having on our community on a
20 daily basis.

21 Gun violence has a detrimental
22 effect of everyone around those that are directly
23 or indirectly affected by it. Having our
24 children unable to play outside because of fear

1 of gun violence is a sad reality that we live in
2 today.

3 And, again, I said in the beginning
4 we need an office of gun violence and reduction
5 in the City of Chicago. Give our future a chance
6 to grow. Thank you.

7 PRESIDENT DRIVER: Thank you.

8 MS. POWELL: Good evening. I'm Kamaria
9 Powell. I spell my name K-A-M-A-R-I-A,
10 P-O-W-E-L-L. I just had a comment. The Office
11 of Gun Violence Reduction, I want to know how
12 will they work with Public Health's Office of
13 Violence Prevention? Because that's a unit
14 within the Bureau of Behavioral Health, and they
15 fund a lot of non-profit violence reduction
16 programs, and I want to know if there will be
17 some sort of collaboration between the two so it
18 won't be a duplication or one unit is siloed
19 doing one thing without speaking to the other. I
20 just want to know how that will work together.
21 Okay.

22 VICE PRESIDENT TERRY: Thank you. Next.

23 MR. GRIFFIN: Good evening. My name is
24 Willie Griffin, and I'm a proud member of an

1 organization called Giving Others Dreams.

2 We are peacekeepers. Our mission
3 and role in gun violence prevention and reduction
4 is to create a safe environment in our community
5 by canvassing the neighborhood, pushing for
6 peace, de-escalating situations that might
7 escalate into gun violence or any violence for
8 that matter, also by providing our young adults
9 with opportunities, resources such as GED
10 programs, counseling for victims and family
11 members of gun violence, and mental health
12 awareness, just to name a few.

13 That's why it is important to me as
14 an advocate for this gun violence prevention and
15 reduction office, a specific place to collaborate
16 with others and put together and strategize
17 strategic plans in an attempt to prevent gun
18 violence in our communities in the City of
19 Chicago. Thank you.

20 PRESIDENT DRIVER: So before -- can you all
21 hear me? I want to clarify something before we
22 continue with public comment.

23 So the CCPSA was petitioned to have
24 a hearing on establishing an office of gun

1 violence preventions in the City of Chicago. We
2 formally accepted that hearing and scheduled it
3 for today. However, by City ordinance, every
4 month we have to have a regularly scheduled
5 meeting. This is currently the regularly
6 scheduled meeting, so we will start the meeting
7 as we have, get through public comment. We will
8 then take one vote. We will then adjourn that
9 meeting, and then the hearing will be immediately
10 following this. So I just don't want anybody to
11 be confused when we adjourn this meeting, as
12 we're satisfying our requirements on the
13 ordinance, and then the hearing will be
14 immediately following the meeting.

15 There is a pub -- somebody wrote a
16 name for public comment. It looks like it begins
17 with F-A-J. I'm not able to read your name. But
18 if you would like to come up and offer your
19 comment; otherwise, the other two speakers are
20 Cece Collin and Cheryl Miles.

21 MS. COLLIN: Hi. Good evening. Good
22 afternoon. My name is Celia Collin. I am CEO
23 and president of Giving Others Dreams. I'm also
24 a gun violence survivor. I lost my little sister

1 three years ago. One of the things that I'm
2 pushing for is a policy -- a trauma-informed
3 policy at every funeral home and every medical
4 examiner's office.

5 As a gun violence survivor, it
6 should be our choice if we want to go identify
7 our people in the medical examiner's office. It
8 should not be forced on us. We are given trauma
9 that is soul shaking and shattering. I had to
10 identify my sister on her birthday with a 45 to
11 her head. There's no therapy that can help me
12 with that. And then when the funeral was over, I
13 was given a box with no name, no label, and when
14 I opened it at home, it was my sister's crime
15 scene clothes, still moist and bloody, with
16 pieces of her brain, is all I can say, because
17 she was shot in the head attached to her clothes.

18 Should nobody ever have to go
19 through something like that ever in life. There
20 is no therapy for stuff like that.

21 I now do violence intervention and
22 prevention work in her honor, because I don't
23 believe any of us were born to kill each other.
24 I believe violence is learned and can be

1 unlearned. And because all of them are amazing
2 peacekeepers that are on the grounds, frontline
3 workers, they should be supported with adequate
4 lifesaving tools. They don't have the tools.

5 Just last week a couple of our
6 peacekeepers had to be the people between life
7 and death for two young people that were shot at
8 81st and Commercial. They're the ones that
9 applied first aid and held down their wounds,
10 even when 20 police showed up and none of them
11 used their stop the bleed kits. Our people
12 should have stop the bleed kits and tourniquets.
13 We should have an emergency box, just like they
14 have emergency boxes for people to do harm
15 reduction with drugs. They've got the clean box
16 and the needles that can be replaced. We need
17 them. We need the emergency blue boxes to call
18 the police that really care. Thank you.

19 PRESIDENT DRIVER: Thank you.

20 MS. LEECH: Hello. How you all, doing? My
21 name is Zakia Leech. That's spelled Z-A-K-I-A,
22 L-E-E-C-H. I'm a peer support advocate for GOD,
23 and I am a gun violence victim.

24 I advocate for us to have a gun

1 reduction office because I'm tired of my friends
2 being shot.

3 I had a friend who was just killed.
4 His name is Todd Brown. He was killed on 71st
5 and Jeffrey. He was shot 27 times by an
6 assailant who's not even masked. Long live him.

7 I had another friend -- oh, Jesus,
8 help me -- last month. His name is Milton
9 Coleman. He was assassinated at a park on 67th
10 and Jeffrey.

11 This is why we need those, because
12 these people used assault rifles on my friends.
13 Is that or is that not an overkill? Is that not
14 okay for my kids and my nieces and my mother to
15 walk through the neighborhood, and she is
16 susceptible to being shot 27 times by somebody
17 that she does not even know. The children cannot
18 play. We need you guys to put that here so that
19 we don't be afraid for our lives. I'm terrified
20 every day I get on the train. Every day I come
21 from wherever I'm coming from to go to work.
22 It's ridiculous and it's redundant. It is
23 something that we can do something about. It is
24 more power in numbers than it is for us just

1 standing here and waving our hands looking for
2 tourniquets. It is a necessity. It is a
3 requirement. It is needed in our communities.

4 If you live here, you work here,
5 you prosper here, we need help. We're asking for
6 help. Thank you.

7 PRESIDENT DRIVER: Our next three speakers
8 are Monica Grant, Eddie Johnson, and Beth
9 Rochford, and last speaker will be Kirk Fleming.

10 MS. GANT: My name is Monica Gant. It is
11 spelled M-O-N-I-C-A, G-A-N-T. And I'm here as a
12 USA citizen and a resident of Chicago, Illinois,
13 and I posed a question. We need to clean the
14 system up. If we don't clean the system up,
15 things won't change. I did not mean to be so
16 harsh, but I am here on the behalf of my father
17 El Roi God, and he is saying, Save my people.
18 And he has told me how you make change is you
19 clean the system up. If the same people that are
20 in place in high places are still there, nothing
21 will change. That's how you change a business.
22 Every business does inventory. So we need to do
23 an inventory. And we can be the first city,
24 Chicago, to do an inventory on all who are in

1 charge or in power of our people. So if we do
2 that, I promise you, and get good people, it will
3 change.

4 MS. COOKS: Hello, everybody. My name is
5 Sonja Cooks. I'm a member of GOD, Giving Others
6 Dreams. I'm the -- and I'm calling because I
7 feel that I'm piggybacking on everything everyone
8 else said. We do need this in our area, because
9 I am the one that saved the little boys' lives on
10 81st and Exchange (Audience Applause). It was
11 horrible that we had to pull ourselves together
12 to get everything that was going on around us
13 and just focus on those babies for 20, 25 minutes
14 until not the paramedics, not the fire
15 department, but the police came. No -- no --
16 the -- what you call those things? The things
17 they had on -- the cameras, no cameras on
18 (inaudible) and didn't help apply nothing. We
19 did it all by ourselves.

20 So with that being said, I feel
21 it's very important that we have that and all the
22 resources that we need in our communities to
23 provide and help make things better.

24 I'm from the southeast side of

1 Chicago. We got -- we love on each other there.
2 We trying to make our society and our community
3 better. We just need the resources.

4 MS. ROCHFORD: Hello. Elizabeth, traditional
5 spelling, Rochford, R-O-C-H-F-O-R-D, 17th
6 District Counselor. I and my community want to
7 thank you for the statement that was made at the
8 last meeting about working with the Mayor's
9 Office to rid out Oath Keepers and other
10 biased-based police officers. And I have also
11 been asked by my constituents to ask you to
12 please report monthly on how that process is
13 going.

14 We're a little bit concerned that
15 we don't know what it means to work with the
16 Mayor's Office on a task force that -- like that.
17 And so we're hoping that monthly at your meetings
18 you can give us an update of how that process is
19 going and what that looks like. Thank you.

20 MR. JOHNSON: Good evening. My name is Eddie
21 Johnson. I'm the former Superintendent of the
22 Chicago Police Department. Thank you, all.
23 Thank you. I want to thank you all for your
24 service.

1 But, listen, when we talk about
2 establishing an office of gun reduction -- gun
3 violence reduction in the City, I think that's a
4 great thing, but I think it's also important to
5 think about what that actually means and what it
6 takes to get us there. If we're going to do
7 that, we have to understand that these people in
8 this auditorium know and feel what that gun
9 violence is when they see people they know, their
10 loved ones getting shot and killed every day in
11 this City. People of color. They wouldn't be
12 here if they didn't understand that.

13 I understand that, being a cop for 31
14 years, but also lived in Chicago my entire life.
15 My family was a victim of gun violence. So if we
16 are going to do this, we need to do it correctly.

17 One of the ways we do that is
18 ensuring that we get the proper data from the
19 Police Department and from the City that shows us
20 where these things are occurring and what we can
21 do to prevent them.

22 Everything this City has to bear --
23 bring to bear to stop gun violence in the City we
24 should be willing to do.

1 Everybody in this auditorium
2 deserves to feel safe and to be safe. And the
3 only way to do it is to understand we, as a City,
4 have to do everything we can to keep technology
5 in this City, more police officers, community
6 members, clergy, businesses, we all have to work
7 together to do this.

8 It's just mind boggling to me, a
9 technology like Shots Fired we're about to lose.
10 If we lose that, do we not understand 70 to 80
11 percent of the gun shot calls in this City go
12 unreported in these challenged areas.

13 What we're going to see is, we're
14 going to mistakenly think gun violence is going
15 down. No, it is not going to go down, it is
16 going to go up. We're going to think it's going
17 down because it is going to be underreported.

18 So these people deserve everything
19 we can do to keep them safe and our City safe.
20 Thank you.

21 MR. FLEMING: How you doing? My name is Kirk
22 Fleming. It's K-I-R-K. Two Ks no T. Last name
23 Fleming, one M, F-L-E-M-I-N-G.

24 I'm here as a committee advocate of

1 the non-for-profit organization Giving Others
2 Dreams. I'm also a former problem that became a
3 solution. I'm here today to say, yes, we do need
4 that office here for violence reduction -- gun
5 reduction.

6 In the City of Chicago having an
7 office dedicated to reducing gun violence is not
8 only crucial but also life saving.

9 This office could consolidate
10 efforts, propose new strategies, and facilitate a
11 unified approach. It will enable us to address
12 the roots of gun violence which often go beyond
13 the accessibility to firearms and dabs into
14 social issues such as alcohol issues, education,
15 and (inaudible).

16 I stand here today once again
17 telling you that I was the problem. I have a
18 background of UUWs. The solution for me was
19 given opportunities. Okay. The more
20 opportunities I was presented with, the more
21 opportunities I was faced with, the less violence
22 I thought about, the more I thought I could do
23 better for myself. I then had children and
24 wanted to do better for them.

1 If you want us to give up
2 something, you have to give us something. We
3 need more opportunity. We need more resources.
4 \$2 billion went to a Quantum building on the east
5 side. Ask Mayor Brandon about that \$2 billion.

6 PRESIDENT DRIVER: We reached the end of our
7 public comment period. Thank you again to all
8 our speakers. We value your input.

9 Our next order of business will be
10 reports and updates. We will begin with motions
11 to fill a vacancy in the 6th District Council.

12 Under state law, when there is a
13 vacancy in an elected position in Chicago, the
14 Mayor the has power to fill the vacancy. But
15 under City ordinance, when there is a vacancy for
16 an elected District Council position, the
17 District Council and the Commission also play a
18 role in filling the vacancy.

19 Under Chicago Municipal Code Section
20 2-80-070, when there is a vacancy in a District
21 Council, the existing members of the District
22 Council have 30 days to nominate three candidates
23 for the vacancy to the Commission.

24 The Commission then has a total of

1 60 days from the creation of the vacancy to
2 select one of these candidates to recommend to
3 the Mayor for appointment to the District
4 Council, then the Mayor chooses someone to fill
5 the vacancy.

6 I will begin by discussing our
7 recommendations to fill the 6th District Council.

8 Pursuant to the law I described, the
9 remaining members of each of the two District
10 Councils held an application process and
11 interviews for candidates to fill the vacancies.

12 The remaining Councilors worked
13 diligently to ensure wide promotion of the
14 application opportunity and a careful process for
15 reviewing qualified candidates. The Commission
16 thanks the remaining members of District Council
17 6 for their hard work in raising awareness about
18 the vacancy and vetting candidates to join their
19 respective Councils to serve their districts.

20 After completing their review of
21 qualified applicants, the remaining Councilors of
22 each of the two Councils voted in public meetings
23 to nominate three candidates for the respective
24 vacancies. The names then went to the Commission

1 for consideration. The Commission reviewed the
2 application materials for all three candidates.
3 The Commission also conducted interviews of all
4 candidates.

5 Before proceeding to
6 recommendations, the Commission thanks all the
7 candidates for applying to serve on their local
8 District Council.

9 For those who we do not select for
10 recommendation, we hope you will stay involved
11 with the work of the CCPSA.

12 Is there a motion to recommend to
13 the Mayor a candidate to fill the vacancy of the
14 6th District Council?

15 VICE PRESIDENT TERRY: I move that the
16 Commission recommend that the Mayor appoint Dr.
17 Ciera Whitaker to fill the District Council 6
18 vacancy.

19 Dr. Ciera Whitaker is a 6th
20 District resident living in South Shore. Her
21 commitment to public service and community
22 engagement came from working with South Shore
23 Chamber of Commerce for more than a decade. She
24 is also a member of Hustle Mommies and board

1 member with several organizations, including the
2 Greater Englewood Chamber of Commerce and the
3 Black is Gold Organization.

4 (AUDIENCE APPLAUSE.)

5 COMMISSIONER PRESLEY: I second.

6 PRESIDENT DRIVER: Commissioner Terry has
7 moved that the -- to recommend to the Mayor to
8 appoint to fill the vacancy of -- Ciera Whitaker
9 to fill the vacancy of the 6th District Council
10 and Commissioner Presley has seconded.

11 Is there any debate on the motion?

12 (NO RESPONSE.)

13 PRESIDENT DRIVER: Hearing none, we will move
14 to a vote. Those in favor of adopting a motion
15 to recommend to the Mayor the appointment of
16 Ciera Whitaker to fill the vacancy on the 6th
17 District Council signify by saying aye.

18 (CHORUS OF AYES.)

19 PRESIDENT DRIVER: Are there any nays?

20 (NO RESPONSE.)

21 PRESIDENT DRIVER: The motion passes. We
22 will send the name of Ciera Whitaker to the
23 Office of the Mayor for Mayor Johnson to consider
24 selecting her to the appointment of 6th District

1 Council. Congratulations, Ciera Whitaker.

2 The next order of business is
3 updates. Commissioner Gottlieb will provide
4 update for the Community Engagement Work Group.

5 COMMISSIONER GOTTLIEB: So thanks so much,
6 President Driver.

7 So, yes, we heard a lot of
8 questions about the DNC, so we wanted to provide
9 you with a brief update on what we know.

10 So over the past several weeks, our
11 team has worked closely with CPD to get questions
12 to many of the answers -- or to many of the
13 questions that you raised. And I want to
14 acknowledge that I appreciate CPD's cooperation
15 for this end. I also want to extend specific
16 thanks to District Councilors from the 12th and
17 1st Districts, the districts most directly
18 impacted by the DNC, for lifting the concerns of
19 their communities and coordinating with CCPSA and
20 CPD to try to get clarify on these key issues.
21 Here are some of the issues we are putting
22 together. So behind me are some QR codes that
23 you should be -- that link you directly to the
24 OEMC site which provides more information and

1 answers to frequently asked questions.

2 Also, when you walked in, we had a
3 check-in table, and we put together a DNC
4 resource table there. Included there is a copy
5 of CCPSA's overview of CPD's mass arrest policies
6 as well as a copy of the OEMC/DNC flyer. If you
7 didn't get this information on the way in, please
8 get it on the way out if you'd like.

9 I'm also happy to talk with anyone
10 after the meeting if you have specific questions.

11 PRESIDENT DRIVER: Thank you, Commissioner
12 Gottlieb.

13 PSA. Please follow us on our
14 social media accounts.

15 I'm about to adjourn the meeting,
16 but as I announced earlier, we are going to have
17 a second meeting that should be immediately
18 following this.

19 However, it's been brought to my
20 attention that we placed it at 7:15 on the public
21 notice, so we cannot start until 7:15.

22 So the regularly scheduled meeting
23 of CCPSA is now adjourned, and we will reconvene
24 at 7:15 to have a hearing on the Office of Gun

1 Violence Prevention.

2 (WHEREUPON, the proceedings were
3 adjourned at 7:02 p.m.)

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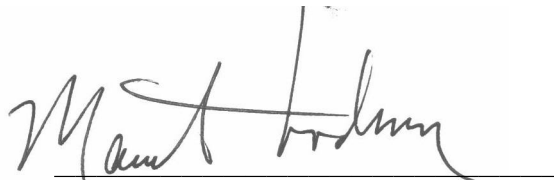
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1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
2) SS:
3 COUNTY OF C O O K)

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