

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

COMMUNITY COMMISSION for PUBLIC SAFETY
And ACCOUNTABILITY
PUBLIC MEETING
Thursday, November 14, 2024,
6:30 p.m.
Malcolm X College

- - - - -

APPEARANCES:
President Anthony Driver
Commissioner Aaron Gottlieb
Commissioner Sandra Wortham
Commissioner Abierre Minor
Commissioner Angel Rubi Navarijo
Executive Director Adam Gross

1 PRESIDENT DRIVER: Hi, everyone. The
2 November 14th, 2024, meeting of the Community
3 Commission for Public Safety and Accountability
4 is called to order at 6:36 p.m.

5 We will begin by calling the roll
6 to establish a quorum.

7 Commission Driver is present.
8 Commissioner Gottlieb.

9 COMMISSIONER GOTTLIEB: Present.

10 PRESIDENT DRIVER: Commissioner Minor.

11 COMMISSIONER MINOR: Present.

12 PRESIDENT DRIVER: Commissioner Rubi
13 Navarijo.

14 COMMISSIONER RUBI NAVARIJO: Present.

15 PRESIDENT DRIVER: Commissioner Terry is
16 absent. And Commissioner Wortham will be joining
17 us shortly.

18 With six out of seven of the
19 members of the Community Commission of Public
20 Safety and Accountability present, we have a
21 quorum, and we can conduct the Commission's
22 business.

23 The next item of business is public
24 comment. If you would like to share something

1 related to the Commission's work on public safety
2 and accountability, you have a few options. You
3 can speak at a public meeting. You can also
4 submit comment in writing by emailing your
5 comment to
6 CommunityCommissionPublicComment@CityofChicago.
7 org. Or you can bring a copy of your comment to
8 one of the Commission's public meetings and give
9 it to someone on the Commission or someone on the
10 Commission staff.

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

1 public comment.

2 Our first speaker is Tiwon Sims.
3 Second is DC Beth Rochford and third is Kamala.

4 MR. SIMS: So good evening, Committee. I
5 just feel like -- for the last, what? Year and a
6 half, two years, over the time that I've known
7 you, Mr. Driver, and trying to explain to you
8 that something going on in my life, I realize
9 that there's so much corruption that can you even
10 speak to it? Can this Commission even talk to
11 the corruption? Can it talk to the FOP,
12 Catanzara, who might think he the law? Can it?
13 Can it talk to the fact that I've been screaming
14 out to you all for what reason? And so I guess
15 I'm here. A man said -- he said I'm exploiting
16 you all. I'm exploiting you all for views I
17 guess. I guess that's a father that's been
18 removed from his children, case number 23D79597.
19 That's Yaskay (phonetic) Roosevelt Sims. I
20 haven't seen them in a year and a half. I guess
21 I haven't been afforded equal justice -- what is
22 it? Equal protections under the law, and you are
23 -- you are a humanitarian of the law, something
24 like that. All of you all are super stars, but

1 you all utilize you all's power for nothing. Not
2 for the people. You all know -- look, I'm
3 speaking from experience. You all -- they
4 elected a Community Commission for Public Safety
5 and Accountability, and there's no public safety
6 or accountability, because what? You are all
7 afraid to what? Address people in a light. They
8 do it in the dark. They have they private
9 meetings and whatnot. So when you all see me
10 screaming down they necks, understand that they
11 have wronged me. They played with my life, and I
12 want to do more than scream. But I do want to be
13 with my children. I do want to do what my mother
14 would have asked, do proper.

15 So, Mr. Driver, and all of you
16 super stars, I'm going to need you all's help in
17 holding these individuals accountable. Holding
18 them to the iron like they've been trying to put
19 me through. I done ran the gauntlet. I'm sure
20 it's tremendous --

21 (TIMER)

22 MS. ROCHFORD: Hello. Elizabeth Rockford.
23 Elizabeth, traditional spelling, R-O-C-H-F-O-R-D,
24 17th District Councilor. I want to give public

1 comment today to thank Commissioners Gottlieb and
2 Navarijo for coming to the budget town hall that
3 we had in the 17th District, and to Commissioners
4 Terry and Minor for coming out to a public town
5 hall that we recently had.

6 My community appreciates you all
7 coming out and listening to what they have to
8 say. And then I am just here to amplify what one
9 of my community members said at the budget town
10 hall, that this budget of CPD is morally
11 indefensible and must be addressed.

12 I was happy to hear that the
13 Attorney General and the judge at the Consent
14 Decree hearing, the plaintiffs and the Monitor
15 are all in -- thinking that it is not an
16 acceptable budget, and I'm hoping that's the
17 report that you all send to City Council saying
18 we must keep accountability. We must keep BIA.
19 We must keep the community policing. We must
20 have victims advocates. And what they're
21 proposing is not acceptable.

22 I was at a rally for green schools
23 the other day, and there were about 50 of us,
24 parents, teachers, students, community members,

1 and there were seven police officers there to
2 monitor us. What kind of workforce allocation is
3 that? So thank you for your time. Thank you.

4 MR. KAMALA: Hello, Commissioners. Kamala,
5 K-A-M-A-L-A. I wanted to say a couple of things.
6 First of all, your purview includes the safety,
7 welfare, and health of the people. This is not
8 limited to policing. And no one is asking you to
9 be a shadow City Council or court. The demand is
10 for you to take responsibility for the power that
11 you have. And you all are super stars.

12 First of all, you should recommend
13 the ending of the criminalization and
14 surveillance of people in the illicit substance
15 trades.

16 Secondly, you should recommend the
17 banning of biometric surveillance, including
18 facial recognition and gait recognition
19 technologies.

20 And, thirdly, you should recommend
21 that the Office of Labor Standards, the Chicago
22 Commission on Human Relations, or whoever, get
23 expanded authority and enforcement powers so that
24 we can bring about demand side labor market

1 interventions, so that this jobs rhetoric
2 surrounding violence prevention can stop failing
3 as much as it is.

4 Right now, so-called job creators
5 and business owners in the private sector who
6 we've turned over violence prevention to in the
7 City, they refuse, and they will not absorb
8 certain communities at fair wages and working
9 conditions, including queer folks, gender
10 marginalized folks, disabled folks, and
11 neurodivergent folks.

12 Lastly, I want to say this is not
13 about policy, legal, or jurisdictional
14 limitations. There is no excuse with the
15 strategic incompetence and strategic incapacity
16 of leaders in this City, both in and outside of
17 office.

18 In the Mayor's transition report, he
19 made recommendations about ending the
20 surveillance and criminalization of sex workers.
21 You can do this. It does not just relate to --
22 there's no excuse. None to provide --

23 (TIMER)

24 PRESIDENT DRIVER: Our next three speakers

1 Pastor Doyle, Antoine Hale, and Steve Held.

2 PASTOR DOYLE: Those documents are relative
3 to my two minutes. I thought it would be
4 inappropriate for me to step on the stage. And,
5 again, my birth certificate is for Commissioner
6 Wortham. Thank you.

7 It's my birth certificate in
8 Commissioner Wortham's hands. That's my actual
9 birth certificate. I put it in her hands.

10 PRESIDENT DRIVER: Pastor, I'm going to need
11 you to go ahead and start your comments.

12 PASTOR DOYLE: Meaning the website states --
13 the website states no -- nothing about supporting
14 documents, so I'm following rules. Thank you.
15 I'm sorry. To the President, I'm following
16 rules. So with that being said, President
17 Driver, the last meeting you were not present,
18 and so my comments are directed to you. As I
19 said in the lobby, congratulations on making
20 Crain's 40 under 40. It is a hard list to get on
21 as a former Crain's reporter, and you deserve all
22 God's good for your accolades.

23 The reason why my email address is
24 on paper is because I received no correspondence

1 in the last two weeks from either of the
2 Commissioners about dismissal of 22nd District
3 commissioner Carisa Parker. Nothing. Not a
4 smoke signal. I thought, hmm, as a Marine Corps
5 veteran, that would be disrespectful. President
6 Driver, you weren't present so I am giving you
7 that allowance.

8 There are multiple emails that my
9 fellow -- multiple texts that my fellow
10 journalists are on where Carisa Parker is not
11 only disrespectful, she is dishonorable.

12 As a Marine Corps veteran, I asked
13 at the last meeting that the process start for
14 her to be dismissed.

15 So since you were not present, and
16 you are the president, that is my email address.

17 Other attorneys, other boards have
18 said that I'm in my right as a Marine Corps
19 veteran.

20 And the reason for my birth
21 certificate, Commissioner Wortham, is you see
22 it's January 20th, the same day as your brother.
23 Please give me the same respect as your brother.

24 MR. HALE: Good evening. My name is Antoine

1 Hale. A-N-T-O-I-N-E, H-A-L-E. I'm here to talk
2 about an incident that occurred on December 8th,
3 2022. I was stopped by two officers. I was
4 dropping off a friend. They were on another
5 routine stop. At the end of their stop, they
6 pulled in front of me, turned their lights on.
7 It was unjust, I will start by saying that. As
8 they approached my vehicle, they told me that
9 they heard me beeping a horn, which they did hear
10 a horn, which was another car that was in the
11 immediate vicinity that their alarm was going
12 off. They were very aggressive in nature in that
13 stop. I wouldn't roll my windows down based on
14 their behavior, so I asked for a sergeant. A
15 sergeant came out. He supported this behavior.
16 During that time, one of the officers pulled out
17 a gun on me. He opened my door. Again unjust.
18 I put in a complaint with COPA, and they just
19 released the report two years later. And, you
20 know, I requested all the officers' body-worn
21 camera information, and they deemed that the stop
22 was unjust. They deemed that the temporary
23 detainment was unjust, but on the heels of that,
24 they closed the report and nothing happened on

1 the heels of that. So I mean I'd like to know
2 from you guys what happened if you're deeming
3 everything unjust, and it should have never
4 occurred. I could have lost my life that night.
5 That's not okay with me. That's not okay with my
6 six-year-old daughter either.

7 So, again, we can talk after the
8 meeting, but I'd like to know what happens next.
9 What happens to the officers? What happens to
10 the sergeant and also what happens to COPA.
11 Thank you for your time.

12 MR. HELD: My name is Steve Held. I am a
13 journalist with Unraveled. Steve. Last name is
14 H-E-L-D. There have been several news stories
15 about the Mayor's proposed budget cuts to the
16 Office of Constitutional Policing and Reform,
17 also known as OCPR, and those proposed budgets
18 reduced the budgeted head count in that reform
19 unit from 65 people to 28 people, and I think
20 that's part of what Beth was referring to.

21 Many officials have raised concerns
22 about that, Attorney General, Kwame Raoul just
23 joined in saying that the City must provide the
24 necessary and reasonable financial resources

1 required to fulfill their obligations under the
2 Consent Decree. But there is an aspect of this
3 that I think people are missing or maybe not
4 aware of. What hasn't been reported, and
5 according to CPD records that I've received via
6 FOIA, that in August, OCPD only employed 23
7 people, and then in September they transferred 4
8 people out of that unit, leaving them with 19
9 people. So there are only 19 people in that unit
10 where they have a budget for 65.

11 So as we're arguing for more money
12 for this same line item next year, if you don't
13 already know that head count, you know, officials
14 like yourselves should be asking why didn't CPD
15 use the money this year that was in their budget
16 in the first place.

17 The same thing happened the year
18 before where they had a budget for 45 jobs, and
19 according to CPD records, they only filled 14.
20 You know that they're only in compliance with 7
21 percent of the Consent Decree. It's been five
22 years. So when they had the budget for OCPD,
23 they didn't bother to use it to actually fill
24 those jobs. So why should anyone believe that

1 they get more money now that will be any
2 different.

3 I just ask to keep that in mind.
4 They didn't fill two-thirds of the positions the
5 last two years.

6 (TIMER)

7 PRESIDENT DRIVER: Thank you to all of our
8 speakers.

9 We've reached the end of our public
10 comment period. We value your input.

11 The next order of business is
12 approval of minutes. Before today's meeting,
13 draft minutes of the Commission's meeting held
14 October 30th were shared with all Commissioners.
15 Are there any corrections to the draft minutes
16 that have been circulated?

17 (NO RESPONSE.)

18 PRESIDENT DRIVER: If there are no
19 corrections, I will move to approve the minutes
20 of the Commission's meeting held on October 30th.

21 COMMISSIONER RUBI NAVARIJO: Second.

22 PRESIDENT DRIVER: Commissioner Driver has
23 moved to approve the minutes of the Commission's
24 October 30th meeting. Commissioner Rubi Navarijo

1 seconded. Any debate on the motion?

2 (NO RESPONSE.)

3 PRESIDENT DRIVER: Hearing none, we will now
4 move to a vote. Those in favor of adopting the
5 October 30th meeting, please signify by saying
6 aye.

7 (CHORUS OF AYES.)

8 PRESIDENT DRIVER: Are there any nays?

9 (NO RESPONSE.)

10 PRESIDENT DRIVER: The ayes have it, and the
11 motion carries, and the minutes are approved.

12 Our next order of business is new
13 business, and there was previously an item on our
14 agenda about taking a vote for -- to recommend to
15 the Mayor's Office that he take up the OIG's
16 recommendation task force on extremism. I will
17 speak for myself here. I don't think we as a
18 Commission are necessarily at that point, but I
19 personally do support that recommendation. That
20 is not, you know, to be interpreted as a shot at
21 the Mayor's Office, but for me personally, simply
22 to say that I do believe that this is an
23 important issue. We also passed an order on
24 biased organizations within the Chicago Police

1 Department. I do think this is something that if
2 there is more to be uncovered, that it is a good
3 idea. It is good government to have a group of
4 folks who wear different hats who take a look at
5 the issues.

6 So we are not going to take that
7 vote at this time, but I would like to personally
8 be on the record saying that I support the Office
9 of Inspector General's recommendation that the
10 Mayor's Office convene a task force. I believe
11 that that's something that may be in the works,
12 but I will not speak for the Mayor's Office. But
13 that is the way that I feel about that.

14 Are there any other Commissioners
15 that would like to speak on this matter?
16 Commissioner Wortham.

17 COMMISSIONER WORTHAM: Okay. And, again,
18 you've been working on this. If you want to go
19 first, you can, but I will. So I wasn't aware
20 until you said that, President Driver, that we
21 weren't taking the vote, so my comments -- as
22 President Driver's comments were his individual
23 opinion, mine, of course, will be mine.

24 My understanding is that this --

1 what's added to our agenda for a vote based on
2 conversations that have been taking place
3 throughout the City and also on this Commission,
4 and that's why I was deferring to Commissioner
5 Minor, because I know that she initially brought
6 this up at our July meeting, and many of you, of
7 course, are probably familiar with the history
8 and how this kind of came to be, but just from my
9 perspective and the things I have been looking at
10 since it came up in our July meeting, I have been
11 reading and educating myself about the issue
12 because I think if we are ever going to take a
13 vote or position in these seats, we need to be
14 educated and informed about the issues. So as
15 many of you, I'm sure, know, there was an
16 investigation internally at the Chicago Police
17 Department regarding the allegations of ties to
18 the Oath Keepers for certain officers. When that
19 investigation did not net results, finding,
20 active participation on the part of the officers,
21 I believe is when this whole conversation came up
22 about the recommendations from the OIG's office
23 that the Mayor convene a special task force.

24 So from my perspective, if we're

1 not going to take the vote out, I will shorten my
2 comments for today, but I will say just say, I
3 hope anyone recommending a new task force, an
4 additional layer of oversight for our police
5 department, A, have read the almost 44-page
6 closing investigation summary. It is really --
7 summary is really a bad word having read it. It
8 is a very detailed report of the investigation
9 that took place in the Chicago Police Department.
10 I think if you want to take a position on this,
11 please read that if you have not already.

12 Also, when you read that, you will
13 see -- and, again, the Chicago Police Department
14 is well able to speak for themselves. So this is
15 just from my perspective, again, until five
16 minutes ago thinking we were taking a vote on
17 this. In that report, you'll see every step that
18 they took and the fact that the Chicago Police
19 Department actually reached out to the OIG during
20 the investigation, again what I read -- and this
21 is not proprietary information. It's available
22 on the Chicago Police Department website, either
23 to collaborate or to ask for assistance or
24 guidance in the investigation.

1 And so, you know, we sit as a
2 Commission that has oversight over the Chicago
3 Police Department.

4 We all know there's also COPA,
5 there's also the OIG. I would hope, and as
6 President Driver just said, during the Interim
7 Commission, they did work hard to get past with
8 the Chicago Police Department an order on
9 criminal and biased-based organizations that we
10 are working -- Commissioner Terry and I reported
11 out to you guys our work with the Chicago Police
12 Department to try and get educated as to the
13 implementation of that order, to ensure that we
14 are able to educate the public as to how the
15 Chicago Police Department is tracking any
16 violations of the order.

17 So I would hope that we would use
18 the resources that we have in place, the work
19 that we've done to work with our Department to
20 make sure that we have the best, most
21 professional, ethical officers working our
22 streets.

23 But as a lifelong Chicagoan who,
24 frankly, lives in a neighborhood that very much

1 needs police, that's important to me. But I am
2 concerned about the feedback that I've heard
3 asking for this recommendation to be put into
4 place presuming the investigation is faulty,
5 because people don't like the results. And I
6 think we need to be careful about that precedent
7 and think about how we would like that type of
8 analysis applied to an investigation that was
9 applied to us, if we were the subjects of it.
10 That's what I will say on that if we are not
11 voting today.

12 But if it comes to a vote, I will
13 probably have additional comments. Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER MINOR: Hi, everyone. I just
15 want to speak a little bit about some of the work
16 we've already done internally as a Commission in
17 regards to this work.

18 First of all, I just want to uplift
19 the policy that Sandra mentioned, G08-03, which
20 is -- as well as President Driver, which would
21 address hate and extremism in police ranks.

22 I also want to address the fact
23 that myself, Commissioner Terry, and Commissioner
24 Navarijo -- I hope I'm saying your name

1 correctly -- has also met with Deputy Mayor
2 Gatewood to talk about the establishment of an
3 office which would be a comprehensive
4 whole-of-government approach that would -- I'm
5 sorry. Task force. Thank you for that
6 correction. A task force that would be a
7 whole-of-government approach, which will also
8 include community stakeholders and CCPSA to
9 address, prevent, identify, and eliminate hate
10 and extremist groups in CPD.

11 I just want to mirror the fact that
12 we had that meeting. After that meeting, there
13 was a commitment made by the Mayor's Office for
14 us to be included in further discussion, and we
15 have been privy to what that further discussion
16 will look like, and I look forward to reporting
17 to the public about the further discussion that
18 we're going to have.

19 In addition to that, myself and
20 Commissioner Terry has also went to a town hall.
21 We heard from community members who felt directly
22 impacted by this work. And, again, one of the
23 reasons why we even -- why I made my comment in
24 July is in response to my other public comment

1 that we were hearing regarding District
2 Councilors and community members that were
3 concerned about the findings of the last report.
4 After we took our public comment -- after we sat
5 down in that meeting or whatever -- after we
6 participated in that meeting, we also moved
7 forward with the idea and commitment that we
8 would continue to be thought partners in this
9 work.

10 I'm so grateful, President Driver,
11 that it sounds like you are definitely in the
12 affirmation of us continuing this work, because I
13 do believe that it is important. I do believe
14 that we need to make sure that we can trust our
15 officers. I believe there is a code, a standard
16 that every officer who is in our force takes on
17 when they decide to serve and protect, and I
18 believe that this work is a critical layer to
19 addressing that and making sure that that
20 standard is enforced. I think that when it comes
21 down to how we have, I guess, an accountability
22 system, it's an ecosystem. It doesn't just begin
23 or end with one organization, one group. But we
24 all have to work together collectively to make

1 sure that there is a standard, a code of conduct
2 that's enforced and followed up upon.

3 I do believe in the recommendation
4 of a task force. As someone who's been a part of
5 government and understanding how you even create
6 a task force, how do you appoint task force
7 members, I know that that work is critical and
8 important. It's important for us to have, as
9 President Driver said before, other people who
10 have an interest or they have different subject
11 matter experts that comes from all different
12 walks of life in this one room -- in this one
13 room talking about this issue, right? So we can
14 think about a whole-of-government,
15 comprehensively, a wrap-around on how we can
16 truly get to the root of the problem.

17 At the end of the day, what I see
18 right now when it comes to that investigation and
19 one of the reasons why OIG -- the -- OIG
20 recommended that they reopen the investigation,
21 right, is because they felt like it was not
22 holistic enough, right? They identified there
23 was some deficiencies, right?

24 And I believe that the OIG does

1 have the authority, and I do trust them when they
2 say that an investigation has deficiencies that
3 it probably does have deficiencies.

4 So I want to say I align with the
5 OIG in that recommendation. Just trusting who
6 the OIG is and their experience. And more than
7 that, I think that this task force will also be a
8 necessary layer to continue to prevent these
9 issues from happening in the future.

10 So I hope that I have -- I hope
11 that we as a Commission, and I speak for myself,
12 have the community support when we're continuing
13 to engage in these discussions, whether that be
14 with the Mayor's Office or here on the stage,
15 because I do believe that's essential and
16 critical work.

17 COMMISSIONER GOTTLIEB: Thank you. And --
18 yeah, a lot of -- I will be super brief, because
19 a lot of my points have already been said. But I
20 do support the creation of this task force.

21 COMMISSIONER RUBI NAVARIJO: Yeah, I, too,
22 support the creation of this task force. I just
23 think that it is a welcome recommendation from
24 the OIG. I just think that it would be nice to

1 have some more information and specifics about
2 what this task force will entail so we could come
3 to the public in an efficient manner and have a
4 productive dialogue. So I as well support the
5 creation of this task force.

6 I think extremism of any kind hurts
7 an institution, especially an institution that is
8 designed to serve and protect its constituencies.

9 I also want to say that I agree
10 with a lot of Commissioner Minor's points, and I
11 welcome the recommendation, but I welcome further
12 information from the Mayor's Office on what the
13 task force will look like.

14 COMMISSIONER WORTHAM: I just want -- because
15 I know we said we weren't taking a vote, but then
16 people are giving oral votes. Since we're doing
17 that, I want to be clear -- I know President
18 Driver said it isn't a vote, but I am not in
19 support of it being suggested that this
20 Commission is recommending that the Mayor start
21 this task force, because I am concerned about how
22 this is going to be reported out since everyone
23 is giving their -- since everyone is giving their
24 oral non-vote vote. But I understand we didn't

1 vote per President Driver, so thanks.

2 PRESIDENT DRIVER: In closing, I will say
3 I've read the entire report. I'm very familiar
4 with this issue. Very familiar with the cases.
5 I've read through and listened to every single
6 one of those logs. And my support was not for --
7 it wasn't even related to this case specifically.

8 The way I view my role as a public
9 official, as a public servant is that even if I
10 have strong feelings and feel one way or another,
11 a part of my job is to ensure that the public has
12 trust in the accountability system at large.

13 And the Inspector General is a very
14 important piece of that. And if the Inspector
15 General is saying that there are some
16 deficiencies there, if the Superintendent is
17 raising alarms, if COPA or any other agency with
18 something this critical, my support is to say
19 that we have to restore the public's trust. And
20 if there is nothing to be found, then it won't be
21 found. If there is something, we can do better,
22 we will uncover it and do better.

23 So that's where I was coming from
24 with that. I wasn't specifically referencing

1 these cases, but I do -- I feel like I failed,
2 and I feel like this Commission will fail if we
3 do everything right but the public doesn't
4 believe us or doesn't trust us. So I want to do
5 the best that I can to make sure that we do have
6 that trust.

7 And I've gotten hundreds of emails.
8 I've talked to other Commissioners here who, I
9 guess, were not getting the emails, but I got
10 about 200 emails about this subject, inquiring
11 about the same thing. I have been absent. I was
12 not at the last meeting, so it was on me and
13 Commissioner Terry to put that item on the
14 agenda. We can always take things off or decide
15 not to vote. If we want to do things correctly,
16 we have to notice it up. Clearly we have decided
17 to not speak as one voice on the Commission
18 today, but I did want to -- I haven't had the
19 opportunity to go on record, because I wasn't at
20 the last meeting, and I haven't had the
21 opportunity to attend town halls that my fellow
22 Commissioners have been doing because I've been
23 living in Milwaukee for the last month and a
24 half.

1 So it was important for me to
2 express my point of view on this subject. This
3 is also not new. The recommendations came out
4 six months ago. We had that information two
5 months before that, so we're talking about a
6 whole eight-month process here.

7 With that, if nobody else would
8 like to speak on this subject, I will move
9 forward with the next item.

10 Next, one of the Commission's powers
11 and duties, according to Chicago Municipal Code
12 2-80-050, is every year the Commission must
13 review the Police Department's budget and before
14 City Council votes on the budget, the Commission
15 can comment on it or recommend changes.

16 Commissioner Gottlieb and I met with
17 the Chicago Police Department, District
18 Councilors, and community members to learn about
19 their perspectives on the CPD budget priorities.

20 Since the end of August, we have
21 also received community feedback about the budget
22 and budget priorities in our Budget Feedback
23 Survey.

24 CPD's proposed 2025 budget reflects

1 a 3.2 percent decrease in personnel for 2024, but
2 an increase of over \$78 million.

3 Last year, the Commission was glad
4 to see CPD creating civilian positions to carry
5 out several essential functions, including
6 forensic analysis, crime victim support, training
7 support, and administrative investigations. This
8 year, the Commission found that many of the
9 civilianization efforts from 2024 were notably
10 eliminated or reduced in 2025.

11 In September 2024, the Commission
12 sent a letter to City Council, prior to the
13 release of the City's FY2025 budget
14 recommendations, to highlight two important
15 matters. First, the Commission wanted to ensure
16 that some of its preliminary budget priorities
17 that are not included in the Department's budget,
18 but impact CPD were delivered to City Council and
19 the Budget Office prior to the release of 2025's
20 budget recommendation. These priorities include
21 funding citywide violence reduction efforts and
22 victim services; a capital improvement plan
23 between CPD and Department of Fleet and Facility
24 Management to address high-priority equipment and

1 facility needs; and a progress report on next
2 steps for updating CPD's data analysis
3 infrastructure and capacity.

4 The Commission has also called for
5 greater transparency about CPD-related spending.
6 Over the last three years, the Commission has
7 found the current structure of the City's budget
8 documents makes it difficult for the Commission
9 to conduct a meaningful review and make impactful
10 recommendations. CPD's budget documents, for
11 example, do not provide information about how
12 staff resources are allocated to police
13 districts, areas, or other subunits in the
14 Department. Nor do the documents specify what
15 personnel or other resources are dedicated to key
16 community policing initiatives. The Commission
17 has ultimately found that the current budget
18 structure does not allow for an accurate estimate
19 of all the full cost of running the Police
20 Department.

21 As the Commission has done in the
22 last two years, a report will be publicly
23 released that contains the Commission's review of
24 the proposed 2025 CPD budget. Any

1 recommendations the Commission has on CPD's
2 proposed budget will consider the extensive
3 community feedback the Commission has received so
4 far, CPD's proposed budget and presented
5 priorities, and any possible forthcoming changes
6 made during this year's budget process. As
7 always, the Commission will continue to insist
8 that CPD use its public safety resources
9 effectively and equitably to keep all communities
10 safe.

11 Tonight, to further inform the
12 Commission and public about the CPD budget, we're
13 joined by CPD Deputy Director Ryan Fitzsimons to
14 give the Commission a briefing and to answer
15 questions related to the CPD budget.

16 Later in the meeting, the Commission
17 will provide an update on its progress reviewing
18 the CPD budget.

19 Ryan, can you please come up to the
20 podium?

21 MR. FITZSIMONS: Hi. Good evening. Is this
22 working? Sounds like it's working. Great. All
23 right.

24 So before we launch into it, my

1 name is Ryan Fitzsimons. I'm the Deputy Director
2 within the Office of the Superintendent. I work
3 primarily on budget matters for the Department.
4 I work in collaboration with the Office of Public
5 Safety Administration, the Office of Budget and
6 Management, and the Department of Human
7 Resources.

8 I'm going to keep this brief
9 because due to the City Council meeting today
10 that eliminated the \$300 million dollar property
11 tax increase, everything that is in the budget
12 right now is probably going to change. So I will
13 be presenting on what is in the budget that was
14 put before Council earlier in the month. But
15 please have the knowledge that it's very much in
16 flux right now.

17 So our goal for this budget was
18 basically to ensure public safety while still
19 pursuing reform and acknowledging the budget
20 issues that the City is experiencing. We were
21 able to accomplish a few things. We have a
22 59-member Office of Crime Victim Services. We
23 have a 7 member Office of Equity and Engagement,
24 and we're going to continue working on our

1 forensics lab to pursue accreditation there.

2 Some of this was moving positions
3 that were already budgeted around, so if you see
4 some of those decreases in the Office of
5 Community Policing, that most -- 49 of those --
6 or 59 of those, sorry, came out of the Office of
7 Community Policing to create the Office of Crime
8 Victims Services and the Office of Equity and
9 Engagement, a lot of those came out of the Office
10 of Constitutional Policing and Reform.

11 We did take a large hit in this
12 budget. We lost a total of 4 exempt vacancies,
13 94 sworn vacancies, 358 civilian positions. If
14 you split those civilian vacancies, about 162 of
15 those were civilian positions tied to the Consent
16 Decree, and another 196 were just other civilian
17 positions that are needed to operate the
18 Department. None of these positions were
19 occupied by someone. These were all vacancies.

20 A little bit about the Office of
21 Crime Victim Services. So in our 2024 budget,
22 these positions were all budgeted within the
23 Office of Community Policing. We were seeking to
24 clarify a little bit more of what the Office of

1 Community Policing is doing, along with
2 continuing to focus on victims here. So this
3 will allow us to refer victims to advocacy
4 organizations. So once someone has some sort of
5 victimization, we will essentially help them
6 handle the paperwork that they need with CPD, and
7 then ideally refer them out to advocacy
8 organization if they so choose and seek
9 additional services. Also going to help us
10 further civilianize the Department. So I think
11 certain people might want to deal with an
12 officer, other people might feel more comfortable
13 dealing with a civilian member of the Department.
14 This will help us achieve that.

15 And the total budget here is a
16 little over 4 million.

17 We're also going to have the Office
18 of Equity and Engagement. This is another unit
19 that's going to be very instrumental in
20 furthering our performance in the Consent Decree.
21 This will focus a lot on impartial policing. In
22 addition to this, they will be charged with
23 implementing our racial equity action plan, and
24 they're also going to be tasked with being the

1 group designed to go out to the community and get
2 feedback on all our policies. And this is a
3 little bit over 600,000.

4 Some of the highlights of our
5 non-personnel budgets. 480,000 to continue to
6 recruit civilians for the Department. A little
7 over 2.2 million to go for forensics
8 accreditation. So, essentially, what we are
9 trying to do here is get our lab accredited. So
10 when we take in a firearm off the street, we can
11 do a little bit more workup there to identify
12 trends, identify who was involved in what
13 shootings, and then also our latent print
14 section. So as we're recovering those firearms,
15 not only are we looking at the bullets that were
16 fired and trying to determine, okay, what's
17 almost like the fingerprint on this, but also
18 looking at the physical fingerprint on the
19 firearm so we can identify trends.

20 Bureau of Patrol, we've had some
21 issues with making sure that we're budgeting
22 appropriately for a specialized service we have
23 for transporting wheelchair arrestees. And this
24 brings us in alignment with that.

1 And then we've also consolidated a
2 lot of our digital forensics lines into one line.
3 And then also we're acquiring two helicopters at
4 the end of this year, which will mean we have
5 more types of helicopters that we need to train
6 on, so this will allow us to pay for those
7 pilots.

8 So keeping in mind that all of this
9 is up for change. I appreciate all you coming
10 out here to hear what is currently in the budget
11 right now, and I anticipate that you all have
12 some questions for me.

13 PRESIDENT DRIVER: One quick question. The
14 clinicians, I've gotten some information that
15 they were cut. I got other information that it
16 was moved to another title, job title, code. Can
17 you provide any clarity on the proposed mental
18 health clinicians that are in the line budget and
19 that are in this one?

20 MR. FITZSIMONS: Absolutely. So we
21 utilize -- you're online at home, and you want to
22 do some research, you could go to the budget
23 recommendations, and I'd direct you to page 334
24 of that document. At the top that you're going

1 to see our professional counseling division. In
2 2024, we were budgeted for 35 positions. In
3 2025, we're budgeted 25 positions.

4 PRESIDENT DRIVER: One more time.

5 MR. FITZSIMONS: 2024, the total unit had 35
6 positions, and in 2025 it's down to 25 positions.
7 So essentially what happened here is we have
8 three title codes that we are currently using for
9 our clinicians. We have a title code called
10 Clinician III. We have a title code called
11 Police Mental Health Clinician, and then we have
12 a Supervising Police Mental Health Clinician.

13 So the Police Mental Health
14 Clinician is a higher-grade position to make sure
15 we're attracting the talent we need to deal with
16 this specific type of trauma that our officers
17 experience.

18 So we basically eliminated all the
19 Clinical IIIs to then create Police Mental Health
20 Clinician.

21 So we eliminated 22 Clinical
22 Therapists IIIs, but we only added 13 Police
23 Mental Health Clinicians. So we had a net loss
24 of 9 people, 9 vacancies there. So that is

1 something that we are actively hoping to have
2 back in the budget to make sure we are ensuring
3 officer wellness.

4 PRESIDENT DRIVER: That loss of 9, you added
5 13 of the higher title code?

6 MR. FITZSIMONS: We added 13. We lost 22, we
7 added 13.

8 PRESIDENT DRIVER: At the higher title code?

9 MR. FITZSIMONS: Uh-huh. And now we're down
10 net 9.

11 PRESIDENT DRIVER: How many folks are hired
12 for that position right now? I don't -- I trust
13 the Department to figure out what levels those
14 folks are. How many clinicians do we currently
15 have?

16 MR. FITZSIMONS: We currently have in the
17 Department a total of -- so we have 13 Clinical
18 Therapists IIIs, which will become -- those will
19 become Police Mental Health Clinicians. We have
20 3 Police Mental Health Clinicians, and we have 3
21 Supervising Police Mental Health Clinicians. So
22 the total filled there is 19.

23 PRESIDENT DRIVER: Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER RUBI NAVARIJO: Just to confirm,

1 were those vacancies, those 9 that you --

2 MR. FITZSIMONS: Yeah, those 9 were vacant.

3 PRESIDENT DRIVER: Any other Commissioners?

4 COMMISSIONER WORTHAM: Hi. Thank you for
5 your report. My question is about the 94 -- do I
6 have that number right?

7 MR. FITZSIMONS: Hm-mmm.

8 COMMISSIONER WORTHAM: The number 94 sworn
9 vacancies. So -- okay. 94 -- I realize all this
10 is subject to change, as of now, 94 sworn
11 vacancies eliminated. So if they were not
12 eliminated, but for the elimination in this draft
13 version, would those be like 94 additional spots
14 that could cycle through the academy? Is that
15 what that is? Just like -- I guess does that
16 question make sense?

17 MR. FITZSIMONS: Yeah, that makes sense. I
18 mean like -- so we essentially are budgeted for a
19 certain number of positions, right? Right now we
20 have a little -- let's ballpark it around 1200
21 vacancies, right? So if we had 1200 people who
22 were like, I want to be a CPD officer, let's come
23 on, let's do it. Not all of those are PO
24 vacancies. We have detectives, we have field

1 training officers, all those sorts of things. So
2 those 94 are just all sworn uniform positions.
3 It is a combination.

4 COMMISSIONER WORTHAM: So someone in uniform?

5 MR. FITZSIMONS: Yeah, so it's 20 evidence
6 technicians, and then I can't remember what the
7 other breakdown is. Some of it was PO. But it's
8 a sworn officer, someone with a firearm who's
9 sworn to uphold the law with the City.

10 COMMISSIONER WORTHAM: In a super, super
11 ideal world, like per your example where we got,
12 let's say, 1500 applicants start the academy, and
13 we were running classes, we would have 94 less
14 spots, theoretically if --

15 MR. FITZSIMONS: Theoretically, yeah.

16 COMMISSIONER WORTHAM: Okay. Now, just my
17 second question is, I understand every department
18 in the City was forced to try to trim places. Is
19 there any version of reality where the Department
20 can propose a budget with no sworn va -- no sworn
21 positions are cut?

22 MR. FITZSIMONS: I mean at the end of the
23 day, a lot of this is a function of the financial
24 realities of the City. We're looking at another

1 \$300 million gap. That money needs to come from
2 somewhere.

3 COMMISSIONER WORTHAM: Okay.

4 MR. FITZSIMONS: If we have the political
5 will to fund that, absolutely. If we don't -- I
6 mean what you see a lot of other cities doing --
7 if you look on CPD's budget and look in the
8 budget recommendations, you see something here at
9 the end called essentially turnover, and it's a
10 negative figure in the budget. So it's on page
11 338. And, essentially, if you increase that
12 figure, it, essentially, reduces the amount of
13 money you have to raise in the levy.

14 One thing about that, though, is
15 because you are effectively not funding that, you
16 are keeping it in the budget, you won't have to
17 raise that money.

18 COMMISSIONER WORTHAM: Okay. Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER GOTTLIEB: Thank you for this
20 presentation. I want to talk about the cuts to
21 the Office of Constitutional Policing and Reform.
22 Right now, I mean a number of people, Independent
23 Monitor, the Attorney General expressed concern
24 about this. I, too, am concerned. Right now we

1 are at 46 percent preliminary compliance with the
2 Consent Decree. 7 percent full compliance and
3 current funding levels --

4 MR. FITZSIMONS: I believe preliminary
5 compliance were much higher than 46 percent. I
6 think we're closed to 80 or 90 preliminary,
7 secondary we're 46 percent.

8 COMMISSIONER GOTTLIEB: Secondary. Sorry.
9 Excuse me. Secondary compliance we're at 46
10 percent and 7 percent full.

11 Regardless, there's still clearly a
12 lot of work to do. So I'm wondering how -- what
13 can we expect from the Department at these
14 significantly reduced funding levels?

15 MR. FITZSIMONS: Yeah, so I think one thing
16 to keep in mind is, absolutely more resources
17 will make things move, hopefully, more quickly.
18 Right? What I will say in looking at the Office
19 of Constitutional Policing and Reform, which is
20 on page 332 of the budget recommendations if
21 anyone wants to go look, the equity officer and
22 the senior equity officer, along with one of the
23 assistant directors were all moved to create the
24 Office of Equity and Engagement. Again, that's

1 the union that's going to help us execute our
2 racial equity action plan, along with help us go
3 ahead and move forward on our impartial policing
4 sections.

5 The project strategy managers, we
6 can always use more of those, more people to go
7 and try to figure out how to solve problems, get
8 the reform process to move forward more quickly,
9 and then these chief performance analysts, senior
10 performance analysts, and regular performance
11 analysts, the hope there was to create a
12 performance management division to take us from
13 that secondary level of compliance to that
14 operational level of compliance. So going from
15 that 46 percent, trying to get that -- sorry,
16 that 7 percent operational and trying to get that
17 as high as possible.

18 We'll, of course, continue to use
19 the existing resources we have, but less
20 resources probably means less rapid progress.
21 But still progress forward.

22 COMMISSIONER GOTTLIEB: Yeah. So I guess do
23 you share the concerns of these people that have
24 -- okay. All right.

1 MR. FITZSIMONS: I think we do share the
2 concerns about the cuts.

3 I think my biggest concern about
4 all of this is how quickly we can hire in the
5 City. The City's hiring process is our largest
6 impediment to our vacancies.

7 So in 2023, we hired approximately
8 100 civilians. This year, as of today, we have
9 160 hires that we've done. We're projecting that
10 by the end of this year, we will be at 179 hires.
11 Keep in mind we went into the year with around
12 600 vacancies, so we have much more to go.

13 I'm sure you guys see this when
14 you're trying to hire people for your department.
15 Every single department needs to try to figure
16 out how we can hire more quickly. That's our --
17 that's my biggest concern.

18 MR. GOTTLIEB: Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER MINOR: My question is towards
20 legal judgments and legal affairs expenses.

21 So, essentially, based on your
22 budget last year, you all budgeted about 150 --
23 well, you all spent about \$150,000 on legal fees.
24 But the budget it was like \$67 million more than

1 what was budgeted. So I'm kind of wondering when
2 you are approaching this budget next year or this
3 budget that's currently being presented to us,
4 what are you all doing to factor in legal
5 judgements? How are you all making sure that the
6 expenses for those legal judgements is
7 transparently reported to community members, and
8 what kind of work -- and I know I'm probably not
9 asking the right person -- but what kind of work
10 are you all doing to prevent some of these cases
11 in the future? I mean especially thinking about
12 how some of the cuts in personnel, especially
13 when it comes to the Consent Decree will put us
14 right into court.

15 MR. FITZSIMONS: Yeah, absolutely. So our
16 budgeted amount for the payment of tort and
17 non-judgements, outside counsel expenses, and
18 expert costs as approved by the Corporation
19 Counsel is about 82.5 million, which is on page
20 306 of the budget recommendations.

21 The key word there at the end is as
22 approved by the Corporation Counsel.

23 So this line is mostly controlled
24 by the Department of Law. Our general counsel

1 works with the Department of Law to try and
2 control that, but this is a line that we have no
3 control over as far what's actually expended.

4 What I will say is that the actions
5 of the Department, we are trying to mitigate that
6 legal risk as much as possible by pursuing the
7 Consent Decree as quickly as the resources allow
8 us to.

9 So as we continue to implement
10 reforms, ideally we will see that coming down.
11 But many of these court cases take years and
12 years to make their way through the courts.

13 So we won't see probably that
14 number moving down, it won't be next year, it
15 needs to be a sustained effort to make sure that
16 we are getting these changes done.

17 I think the judge for the Consent
18 Decree had a quote in the Sun-Times or Tribune
19 essentially stating this is a marathon, it is not
20 a sprint. We are here to go the distance. We
21 are not trying to get this done immediately, but
22 we are trying to move as quickly as possible to
23 make sure that we have the change to bring that
24 down and solve the underlying issues there.

1 COMMISSIONER MINOR: And when you all go over
2 forecasted costs for legal fees, where do you get
3 the money from?

4 MR. FITZSIMONS: That would be a question
5 for -- I believe the Department of Finance or the
6 Office of Budget and Management, especially when
7 it's a large figure like that.

8 We do fund accounting in the City
9 of Chicago, so essentially we -- you can think of
10 it for us almost it's like four buckets, one for
11 services, one for travel, one for supplies, and
12 one for livestock, and I can move things around
13 within certain buckets. Right? But the legal
14 fees is something that we don't really have a lot
15 of flexibility around. So if I have a line for
16 software, but I find that my technical meeting
17 cost is less, and I need more software, I can
18 work with my partners at OPSA and OBM to move
19 money across those lines.

20 But large sums like that, that
21 would have to go to the Department of Finance or
22 Office of Budget and Management.

23 COMMISSIONER MINOR: Thank you.

24 MR. FITZSIMONS: You're welcome.

1 COMMISSIONER RUBI NAVARIJO: One of the
2 things that I noticed working with different
3 alderpeople, and one of the things I noticed
4 underground is the Community Policing Office,
5 specifically CAPS, is having a difficult time, at
6 least in the north region, recruiting young
7 people to get involved within the CAPS office.
8 Can you speak to if those -- if the funding for
9 youth programming is specific to certain
10 activities, or if those are broad budget line
11 items that the Community Policing Office can use
12 at their discretion at the district level, if you
13 know the answer to that question.

14 MR. FITZSIMONS: Yeah, so there is money for
15 the District Advisory Councils and the Youth
16 District Advisory Councils where they can come up
17 with some sort of ideas what they need to do.
18 There are limitations as to how much money can be
19 spent.

20 One thing I will say that impedes
21 the progress that CAPS has is officers have to
22 front the money themselves and then get
23 reimbursed. So as you guy knows as City
24 employees, there are no credit cards for City

1 employees. If you are trying to put together
2 some sort of youth engagement, and if it's like,
3 Oh, we're going to have a movie and some pizza,
4 probably you can find something is streaming that
5 you're not going to incur a lot of cost, but the
6 officer will have to buy the four, five, six
7 pizzas and then hopefully get reimbursed in 30
8 days. But it's not uncommon for them to get
9 reimbursed 30, 60, 90, 120 days.

10 COMMISSIONER RUBI NAVARIJO: Is there a
11 process to maybe make that easier or more
12 encouraging for the officers to be more creative
13 about the way they use those funds? I'm
14 concerned because those are funds that are going,
15 you know, to our young people and that engagement
16 is needed. So I don't know if best practices can
17 be acquired. So that process is a little more
18 encouraging for officers to be more creative with
19 the way they do their work. I understand there's
20 so many other challenges to that, but --

21 MR. FITZSIMONS: I think the biggest thing
22 that would really help the officers get more
23 creative in what they're doing is not having to
24 front the money themselves.

1 I think it's very unique in the
2 City of Chicago that this is the standard
3 business process. And when I've dealt with other
4 people from other cities, and you're explaining,
5 Hey, I travel. I have to pay for the hotel, I
6 have to pay for the meals, and then hope I get
7 reimbursed on the back end, that puts a damper on
8 people trying to get things done. Because part
9 of it, too, is you're only going to want to do
10 what's been done in the past and approved.

11 I think your Commissioners have a
12 similar issue with like reimbursements. It's an
13 issue across the entire City that I think we
14 really struggle with.

15 COMMISSIONER RUBI NAVARIJO: Thank you for
16 that. I actually didn't know that it was that
17 difficult. So that helps give some insight. I
18 would love to stay in touch to see how -- I don't
19 know. I know that's a larger issue with the City
20 procurement system. Trust me, I know. Okay.

21 And then I had another question if
22 that's okay. For the work conditions, facilities
23 and equipment, when there is facilities that have
24 been identified to have capital improvement, does

1 that come out of the Fleet and Facility
2 Management budget or does that come out of the
3 CPD budget?

4 MR. FITZSIMONS: No. That usually comes out
5 of FFMs budgets.

6 A lot of the capital budget is not
7 really seen in this corporate budget as much as
8 you would maybe like. And it all depends on the
9 funding source. So if it is something new, like
10 a really big project -- like headquarters, we're
11 trying to secure the building a little bit more;
12 make sure that people are badging in and badging
13 out. It's going to be a project in excess of a
14 million dollars.

15 There's an entity called the Public
16 Building Commission that needs to become
17 involved. They don't go in front of the Council,
18 but they do a lot of building for Cook County,
19 they do it for CPS, they do it for the City of
20 Chicago, and then they're one entity that's
21 involved. And then the other thing is a lot of
22 the surplus and the TIFs. So headquarters is in
23 a TIF district, so that money is available for
24 some of those capital improvements. But as we

1 surplus that off, that's not going to be as
2 available.

3 So there's not as much of a
4 dedicated funding source for our capital
5 improvements.

6 COMMISSIONER RUBI NAVARIJO: Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER MINOR: I just have one last
8 question.

9 In regards to -- as of right now,
10 we're looking at a lot of personnel cost, and I'm
11 guessing in the second iteration of this budget,
12 there might also include a level of personnel
13 costs. So when we're thinking about -- I know
14 right now CPD is working on the workforce
15 allocation study. But until the study is
16 actually completed, which will take probably
17 another -- I don't know how long. Right? What
18 are we doing to ensure -- with whatever proposed
19 personnel cost -- that we're still having a level
20 of equitable coverage throughout the City when it
21 comes to workforce allocation in different
22 districts?

23 MR. FITZSIMONS: Yeah, I think what we do is
24 we look at calls for service, we look at crime,

1 and we're constantly reevaluating as officers are
2 coming out of the academy where to assign them to
3 districts.

4 In addition to that, we have a
5 number of area teams which we're able to allocate
6 resources as needed to make sure that as things
7 occur, we have some flexibility in our staffing.
8 So it is not a huge insurmountable ask as maybe
9 things surge from one district to the next, the
10 deputy chiefs over those districts will be able
11 to move resources as needed.

12 PRESIDENT DRIVER: All Commissioners good?
13 Thank you so much for your presentation.

14 You all can hear me? The mic is
15 working?

16 I want to say thank you, but, too, I
17 would like to provide some personal opinions on
18 the budget, and, again, this is just my speaking
19 as an individual Commissioner.

20 When we look at Consent Decree
21 compliance, I've truly learned to look at this
22 not through the lens of CPD being in the Consent
23 Decree, but the City of Chicago is in a Consent
24 Decree, CCPSA is in a Consent Decree, COPA is in

1 a Consent Decree, OIG is in a Consent Decree, CPD
2 is in a Consent Decree. All of us have
3 paragraphs in that Consent Decree that we are
4 responsible for when it comes to compliance. I
5 say that to say that it will take the entire City
6 of Chicago, the entire City government to get us
7 out of the Consent Decree. That is going to cost
8 money.

9 So for me personally, when I hear
10 that 9 positions are cut, that is very
11 disheartening to me when I consider the fact that
12 we worked with the Superintendent last year.
13 There were sworn positions traded for 400
14 civilians, and they were supposed to do things
15 like help with victim service advocates, and now
16 that those are getting axed, that's very
17 disheartening to me.

18 I understand our City is facing
19 tough financial challenges. I don't envy the
20 Mayor, nor do I envy City Council who has to
21 figure out where those cuts or challenges or
22 taxes, whatever, has to come from, but for me as
23 CCPSA commissioner, I personally believe that
24 those need to be put back into the budget ASAP.

1 And I also am trying my best to work with the
2 Department and others to figure out how to
3 streamline hiring. I think that's also been an
4 impediment for our Commission and other City
5 departments, but I do believe that it is
6 completely unacceptable to be making these sorts
7 of cuts when we are on the precipice of trying to
8 create change.

9 If we are going to restart this
10 process every couple of years, it is a waste of
11 time completely.

12 And last thing I will say on this is
13 that we have purview over the Chicago Police
14 Department and COPA and the Police Board. A lot
15 of these questions need to be directed to the
16 Mayor's Office and OBM. I'm not saying my fellow
17 Commissioners or even to the audience, but,
18 speaking generally, that's where a lot of our
19 questions and answers are going to be at.

20 I'm not trying to inform anybody on
21 how to approach that, but that for me is who I am
22 choosing to direct my questions towards. That's
23 who I will be honing in on when it comes to our
24 budget recommendations, is figuring out how we

1 can all work together to put those positions back
2 in there, because I do believe those are very,
3 very, very critical positions, and I believe
4 those are positions that are moving us in the
5 right direction and therefore need to be put back
6 into the budget.

7 Again, thank you, Ryan, for taking
8 the time. Thank you, Sarah, for coming here
9 today.

10 Our next order of business will be
11 reports and updates. Commissioner Rubi Navarijo
12 will provide an update.

13 COMMISSIONER RUBI NAVARIJO: The application
14 to apply for the Noncitizen Advisory Council is
15 now available on the Commission's website. The
16 Commission is accepting applications through
17 December. We encourage you to apply if you are
18 not a citizen living in Chicago or work directly
19 with noncitizens and want to advise the
20 Commission on public safety concerns related to
21 noncitizen issues. Please understand the
22 Commission commits to preserving the privacy of
23 all applicants and at no time will applicants be
24 asked to disclose their immigration status.

1 PRESIDENT DRIVER: Thank you. Are there any
2 comments from Commissioners?

3 Next, Commissioner Gottlieb will
4 provide an update on traffic stops.

5 COMMISSIONER GOTTLIEB: Thank you, President
6 Driver. So this will be brief. The Commission
7 is hosting its first traffic stop listening
8 session on December 17th of this year at the JLM
9 Abundant Life Community Center. This will be the
10 first of many listening sessions the Commission
11 will host in each of the districts most impacted
12 by traffic stops.

13 PRESIDENT DRIVER: Thank you. Are there any
14 questions or comments from the Commissioners?

15 (NO RESPONSE.)

16 PRESIDENT DRIVER: Hearing none, next,
17 Commissioner Wortham will provide an update from
18 the Policy Working Group.

19 COMMISSIONER WORTHAM: Thank you. So at our
20 last meeting, Commissioner Terry and I updated
21 everyone regarding the CPD Policy Working Group
22 on -- the CPD policy work on General Order
23 GO1-11, which is the draft order that will govern
24 or provide guidance for the Department's

1 relationship with both the CCPSA, as well as
2 District Councilors. And so we've gone back and
3 forth and gotten a lot of great feedback from our
4 District Councilors, as well as the community,
5 and had some great meetings with the Department.
6 The Department this week got us there, most
7 recent draft incorporating the feedback we most
8 recently gave them, and so we will -- I want to
9 make sure I say the right time period. We're
10 going to start now on our engagement -- so the
11 Department's most recent draft did incorporate
12 the feedback that we gave them that the District
13 Councilors and community members provided for us,
14 and so we're now going to start our outreach and
15 solicited feedback on that draft for the next 30
16 days and continue to work with the Department on
17 that.

18 I believe there -- yes, so the QR
19 code behind me is what you can use for feedback,
20 and we will keep the public updated on that and
21 the policy development. Thank you.

22 PRESIDENT DRIVER: Thank you. Are there any
23 questions, concerns, comments from Commissioners
24 before I move to close --

1 COMMISSIONER MINOR: I also just want to take
2 a moment and acknowledge the recent death of
3 Officer Enrique Martinez. He was 26 years old.
4 And it breaks my heart to know that this is a
5 recurring issue in our Department where we're
6 using -- we're losing young people on the force.
7 I also am heart broken that the fact that he was
8 responding to a traffic stop that went wrong.

9 I think that as we think about and
10 approach these listening sessions and how we're
11 going to approach this policy in the future, that
12 is important, not just think about how traffic
13 stops impact community members but also officers,
14 to make sure we're all working together
15 collaboratively to find a better solution, to
16 find an equitable solution, a safe solution so
17 that we can have a safer Chicago.

18 So I just want to just mention that
19 my prayers, my thoughts is really going out to
20 his family. I hate to see a young life lost.
21 And that's all I wanted to say. Thank you for
22 giving me the time.

23 COMMISSIONER WORTHAM: I'm going to follow up
24 on that. Commissioner Minor probably read my

1 mind. I was going to try to close this meeting
2 by acknowledging Officer Enrique Martinez who was
3 murdered recently in our City.

4 So I want to be respectful of the
5 fact that there will be, obviously, a criminal
6 case for the offender who murdered him. But take
7 a little bit of a different spin on my remarks
8 here. And, obviously, I didn't know this was
9 going to happen, but my dead brother was
10 inappropriately referenced during public comment
11 today, but I will say for those who are not
12 aware, I do have a brother who was a Chicago
13 police officer who was murdered about 14 and a
14 half years ago. And so when I think about
15 Officer Martinez's family, I, of course, think
16 about what my family has gone through and many --
17 too many of our Chicago Police Department
18 families when officers were murdered.

19 So I will say that I don't so much
20 think about traffic stops as I think about the
21 danger that our officers face every day when they
22 go out to work.

23 Officer Martinez was murdered by a
24 violent offender with a high-powered weapon doing

1 his job. And so when I think about thoughts and
2 prayers and the many things that people have said
3 to my family and the many things that residents
4 of this City say to families of Chicago police
5 officers all too often now, and while I'm sure
6 the families appreciate the thoughts and prayers,
7 I will be very frank, when people offer thoughts
8 and prayers to my family, I also say, I would
9 appreciate some work. What I would like is for
10 not just to be so -- for it not to be so common
11 that not only the police officers are murdered,
12 but that people are murdered.

13 In that very neighborhood where
14 Officer Martinez was killed, the week before a
15 woman was shot through her window by gunfire
16 outside. You probably didn't hear about it
17 because it's so common. It's so common.

18 So when I get upset and when I get
19 frustrated about our officers being murdered,
20 yes, I have a personal connection to that loss,
21 but I'm just as upset when regular citizens are
22 murdered.

23 So, of course, my thoughts and
24 prayers to Officer Martinez's family, but my hope

1 is that everyone in a position of policymaking,
2 everyone with the authority to make decisions
3 regarding public safety in this City will work in
4 Officer Martinez's honor, and every officer we've
5 lost, and every citizen, resident we've lost to
6 murder, because it is unnecessary.

7 So I don't think about a specific
8 police action, but what police do every day,
9 which is go out and stand between citizens or
10 residents of Chicago and the danger that would
11 meet them if police weren't here.

12 And I have to say this. I see
13 people shaking your head. That's fine. You are
14 welcome to have whatever opinion you have. I
15 would challenge you to imagine a Chicago without
16 the Chicago Police Department. Good luck.

17 So, yes, I think my thoughts and
18 prayers are also with Officer Martinez's family.
19 And I hope we can honor him and his family with
20 some work to get this City where we need to be.

21 PRESIDENT DRIVER: Thank you, everyone, for
22 coming out tonight. My heart also goes out to
23 the family of Officer Martinez. I would also
24 hope that on this upcoming Monday specifically

1 that we can all -- those who have some sort of
2 faith system, lift up prayer for his family who
3 are grieving.

4 The Commissions next regular
5 meeting will be held Thursday, December 12, 2024,
6 at 6:30 p.m. at the Irish American Heritage
7 Center.

8 With there being no further
9 business before the Community Commission of
10 Public Safety and Accountability, this meeting is
11 now adjourned.

12

13 (WHEREUPON, the meeting was
14 adjourned at 7:47 p.m.)

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

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

3

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.

12

13

14

15

16

17 MAUREEN A. WOODMAN, CSR
License No. 084.002740

18

19

20

21

22

23

24