

City of Chicago
COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING TYPE	Regular Meeting
MEETING DATE	Thursday, July 27, 2023
MEETING LOCATION	Olive- Harvey College
TIME CALLED TO ORDER	6:30 pm

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioner Name	Present or Absent / In-Person or Remote
Rev. Dr. Beth Brown	Present, In-Person
Anthony Driver, Jr. – President, Chair	Present -In Person
Oswaldo Gomez – Vice President	Present, In-Person
Yvette Loizon	Present, In-Person
Cliff Nellis	Absent
Remel Terry	Present, In-Person
Isaac Troncoso	Present, In-Person

QUORUM PRESENT: Yes.

Acronyms:

CCPSA = Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability

COPA = Civilian Office of Police Accountability

CPD = Chicago Police Department

- I. Vice President Driver called the meeting to order.
- II. Vice President Driver called the roll and established the quorum.
- III. The Commission held a public comment session. _ speakers offered comments. Public comment may be viewed at the Chicago CCPSA YouTube page:
www.youtube.com/@chicagoccpsa.
- IV. Minutes: Commissioner Brown moved, and Commissioner Gomez seconded the motion to approve the minutes. No debate was held on the motion, and it carried with a vote of 6 – 0 – 0.

V. New Business

ACTION ITEM #1: Approval of Closed Meetings

President Driver stated that over the next several months the commission will be engaging in the process of selecting candidates for publicly held positions as dictated by the ordinance. This will require a series of closed meetings related to those selections including members of the Police Board.

Section 2(c)(3) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act allows the Commission to meet in closed session to consider the following subject:

“The selection of a person to fill a public office, as defined in this Act, including a vacancy in a public office, when the public body is given power to appoint under law or ordinance, or the discipline, performance, or removal of the occupant of a public office, when the public body is given power to remove the occupant under law or ordinance.”

Section 2a of the Act authorizes the Commission to take a vote to hold a series of closed meetings over the course of not more than 3 months from today, and only for the purposes cited under Section 2(c)(3).

Commissioner Driver moved to hold a series of closed meetings to take place for the maximum period allowable as authorized by Section 2(c)(3) of the Open Meetings Act.

Commissioner Gomez seconded the motion.

There was no debate on the motion, and it carried with a vote of 6 – 0 – 0.

Aye: Driver, Brown, Gomez, Loizon, Terry, Troncoso

Nay: None

Motion Carrie. Yes

ACTION ITEM #2: Selection Process for COPA Chief and Police Board Members

Commissioner Drive invited Commissioner Loizon, Commissioner Brown and Troncoso to update the commission on the next item.

Commissioner Loizon stated that at the Commission’s public meeting on May 25 drafts were presented of two policies for public comment: procedures for appointing the Chief Administrator of COPA, and procedures for nominating people to serve on the Police Board. The Commission is responsible for each of these actions as part of their oversight authority.

Loizon stated that these nominations, are an important function of the commission. COPA and the Police Board are both involved in addressing police misconduct. COPA investigates complaints of police misconduct, incidents where an officer uses a firearm, and incidents where a person dies or is injured in police custody, among other things.

The Police Board reviews cases of misconduct brought by the Police Superintendent, and cases of misconduct where COPA and the Police Superintendent disagree about how an officer should be disciplined. The Police Board also reviews appeals from people who were found ineligible to serve as sworn officers of the CPD, and they set the rules and regulations for the Police Department.

Commissioner Brown stated that the new policies were created to give the Commission’s work more structure and more transparency. They also help show compliance with the Chicago Consent Decree. The Consent Decree is a court settlement from 2019 requiring the Chicago Police Department and the municipal government of Chicago to do a broad overhaul of how policing works in Chicago, and to implement long-lasting reforms to police training, policies, and practices.

Commissioner Brown reviewed the policy development process.

1. The policies were reviewed with the Police Board and COPA. Both gave invaluable suggestions.
2. The policies were introduced at the May 25 meeting and opened for public comment for two months.
3. Policies were sent to all 22 District Councils to share at their monthly meetings and provide input.
4. Policies were included in the commissioner's reporting submission to the Consent Decree Independent Monitoring Team and the Office of the Illinois Attorney General, the parties directly involved in overseeing the City's compliance with the Consent Decree.

Commissioner Brown thanked the Monitoring Team and the Office of the Attorney General for providing thoughtful and useful suggestions to incorporate into these policies.

Commissioner Troncoso continued that both these policies are available on the website. The commissioner then highlighted the community engagement process with regards to COPA.

1. The Commission promotes information to the public to help people better understand the important functions COPA and the Police Board play.
2. The Commission provides an ongoing opportunity for members of the public to contact the Commission with comments about COPA, the Police Board, and their leadership.
3. Regarding the selection of COPA Chiefs, the Commission hold listening sessions annually with COPA employees, as well as an ongoing anonymous survey of COPA employees.
4. Whenever a search commences for a new COPA Chief, the Commission holds four public hearings on the search process: one on the north side, one on the south side, one on the west side, and one virtually.
5. The Commission holds an annual listening session with CPD members and their representatives, while also maintaining an ongoing anonymous survey. The Commission may also hold interviews with subject matter experts.
6. The Commission will share the information gathered from all these community engagement efforts with the public.

Commissioner Troncoso moved, and Commissioner Brown seconded a motion to adopt the new PB & COPA policies. There was no debate on the motion, and it carried with a vote of 6 – 0 – 0.

Aye: Driver Brown, Gomez, Loizon, Terry, Troncoso

Nay: None

Motion Carries. Yes

VI. Reports and Updates

Superintendent Search Process Update

Commissioner Terry gave an update on the Superintendent search. Over the past several months, the Commission engaged in a search for three nominees for Superintendent of the Chicago Police Department. At a special public special meeting of the Commission, commissioners voted to present Chief Shon Barnes, Chief Larry Snelling, and Chief Angel Novalez to Mayor Johnson.

The mayor has until August 13 to select one of the three or decline to pick any of the candidates. If the Mayor declines all the candidates, he must explain the reasons in writing. Commission would need to come up with a new list of three. That process would continue until the Mayor picks a superintendent from the Commission's list.

Commissioner Brown then provided an update on what happens after a selection is made.

1. A public meeting is required where the selected candidate meets with the community and answers questions from the Commission and from members of the public.
2. People will also be able to post questions or make comments on the Commission's website.
3. The candidate then seeks approval from the entire City Council.
4. After City Council confirms a candidate, the Commission will hold another four public meetings where the new Superintendent speaks and members of the public can make comments, ask questions, and recommendations.

No further questions or comments were made on this item.

Police Board Nominations Update

Commissioner Troncoso provided an update on the Police Board Nominations.

Commission Troncoso stated that the Commission carries the responsibility of nominating candidates for the Police Board.

The Commission has already filled two police board seats. The Commission is currently in the process of filling an additional four seats.

The application process for the Police Board is ongoing. Individuals who qualify for the Police Board can apply at any time by submitting a cover letter, resume, list of 5 references, a completed eligibility form, and a completed conflict-of-interest form. When a vacancy occurs or is approaching, the commission will consider all applications received at that time.

To qualify for the Police Board, a candidate must meet the following criteria:

1. Chicago resident for the last 5 years
2. Not a current employee or a former employee within the past 5 years of the Chicago Department of Law, the Chicago Mayor's Office, CPD, COPA, or the Cook County State's Attorney's Office.
3. Have at least 10 years of combined documented experience, including post-graduate education, in law, law enforcement, law enforcement oversight/police accountability, public policy, social work, psychology, mental health, community engagement or organizing, or civil rights.
4. Have a bachelor's degree or have the demonstrated ability to digest, analyze, and make decisions based on complicated written materials.

5. No convictions in the U.S. court for bribery, embezzlement, extortion, perjury, or any other corruption-related offenses; for any other conviction, you must be able to show successful rehabilitation.

A copy of the application is online. All required materials should be sent to PoliceBoardNominations@cityofchicago.org.

There were no questions or debate on this issue.

Update: CPD General Order G08-03 "Prohibitions on Associations with Criminal Organizations".

Commissioner Terry and Commissioners Loizon provided an update on the Commission's work with CPD on the General Order G08-03 "Prohibitions on Associations with Criminal Organizations".

On June 28, the Commission received a written response from CPD to the Commission's requested edits and clarifications. In response to the requests, CPD provided additional clarity in terms of associations with certain groups and organizations, and agreed to the three specific recommendations we made including:

- 1) Renaming the order to "Prohibitions on Criminal and Biased Based Organizations"
- 2) Using a broader label to than "Criminal Organizations" to describe prohibitions and;
- 3) Added a section to the policy that specified training requirements for staff.

The Commission is not yet clear on how CPD will integrate the recommendations made about *Monitoring and Assessment of the Order's Impact and Efficiency*. This will be discussed at the next policy meeting with CPD in August.

Commissioner Loizon stated that the next step with this policy includes meeting with CPD to ensure the Commissioners' input is integrated and considered in this General Order. Once the Commission, conditionally accepts these changes, feedback will be solicited from the community for 30 days per the ordinance. The commission is hoping the community input efforts for this policy will begin at the September Commission meeting.

President Drive opened it up for discussion.

Commissioner Brown asked if there will be an opportunity to see how the policy was changed. Commissioner Driver suggested a one-pager be created that shows the changes made, and specifically how the Commission helped with these changes. Commission Loizon stated that a document has been posted that gives the highlights of the changes but not the specific language. They will be looking at how to present this once public comment phase begins.

Loizon stated that highlights of the policy are that it now included hate groups and creates a training and monitoring component. The original policy was focused more on street gangs.

Commissioner Terry stated that the Southern Poverty Law lists hate groups that could be included. Loizon stated that the working group is still discussing how to refer to groups.

Commissioner Brown stated that the latest version uses "biased-base groups" instead of hate groups. The Commissioner would like more clarification on why this phrase was chosen and explore whether it's too broad. If that phrase is chosen the Commission needs to make it clear why.

Loizon stated that the working group will provide more background on that. There will also be a robust community process.

No further debate was had on the topic.

VII. Announcement of the Next Meeting

President Driver announced that the next meeting will be Thursday August 31, 2023.

VIII. Recess

The meeting was recessed at 7:37PM. The Commission then moved to its closed session.