

City of Chicago
COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING TYPE	Regular Meeting
MEETING DATE	Monday, July 15, 2024
MEETING LOCATION	JLM Community Center
TIME CALLED TO ORDER	6:32PM

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioner Name	Present or Absent / In-Person or Remote
Aaron Gottlieb	Present, In-Person
Abierre Minor	Present, In Person
Anthony Driver, Jr. – President, Chair	Present, In-Person
Kelly Presley	Present, In-Person
Remel Terry– Vice President	Present, Remote
Sandra Wortham	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

PB = Police Board

OIG = Office of the Inspector General

- I. President Driver called the meeting to order.
- II. President Driver called the roll and established the quorum.
- III. The Commission held a public comment session. Five (5) speakers offered comments. Public comment may be viewed at the Chicago CCPSA YouTube page: www.youtube.com/@chicagoccpsa.

IV. New Business

OIG Investigation Recommendation

President Driver explained that the Commission received concerns of the quality and integrity of COPA's investigations, the quality and integrity of COPA's disciplinary recommendations, and retaliation against COPA employees who have raised concerns about COPA's investigations and recommendations.

The Commission has received complaints from multiple, credible sources, and the information they have provided is consistent. Considering the importance of civilian oversight and the work that COPA does, the Commission takes these complaints very seriously.

Due to the nature of the complaints, the Commission wants to ensure that they are investigated. Because the Commission isn't an investigative body, a vote will be held during the present meeting on whether to take the information received and share it with Office of the Inspector General and recommend that the Office of Inspector General conduct a fair, thorough, and timely audit and investigation.

President Driver further explained that the Office of Inspector General's mission is to promote economy, effectiveness, efficiency, and integrity by identifying corruption, waste, and mismanagement in city government. The Office of Inspector General conducts investigations, audits of city programs and operations, and reviews of City programs, operations, and policies. Based on its inquiries, the Office of Inspector General can issue reports on its findings and make recommendations.

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

If the Inspector General conducts an inquiry, under the Inspector General's ordinance, the Commission would receive a copy of the Inspector General's final report and recommendations, and then based on the report and recommendations, the Commission can determine whether any further Commission action is appropriate.

Commissioner Presley explained that in taking a vote to recommend OIG perform the forementioned investigation, the Commission is not taking a position on the information they have received. It is an acknowledgement that the allegations are serious and credible and should be reviewed by the entity that is best equipped to carryout the investigation.

Commissioner Gottlieb emphasized his support for COPA's role as an independent civilian body. He explained that he believes the Commission appreciates the role COPA plays and is committed to COPA's success. A fair and thorough investigation will help the Commission to understand if COPA is meeting its responsibilities or if steps need to be taken to ensure COPA exceeds in its mission. If deficiencies are determined from the investigation, a roadmap will be needed to help COPA earn back its trust.

Commissioner Wortham mentioned it was her understanding that when this special meeting was approved to take place, it was to entertain the motion as articulated by President Driver. It was not the opportunity to offer any opinions as to our value of COPA or the Commissioners' individual opinions about COPA or civilian oversight. She expressed that she will reserve those opinions for a time where it is articulated as the Commission's purpose.

Vote to Recommend OIG Investigation

President Driver called for a motion to refer information the Commission has received to the Office of Inspector General and recommend to the Public Safety Inspector General

that the office conduct audits and any other investigations and reviews that the facts suggest may be warranted related to the quality and integrity of COPA's investigations, the quality and integrity of COPA's disciplinary recommendations, and retaliation against COPA employees who raise concerns about COPA's investigations and recommendations. Commissioner Wortham seconded. There was no debate on the matter and motion passed 6-0.

V. Announcement of the Next Meeting

Commissioner Driver announced that the next meeting will be Thursday, July 25, 2024, 6:30pm at Malcolm X College.

VI. Close

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm.