



# Request for Application for Commissioner

**Fall 2024**

**Background:**

In July 2021, the Chicago City Council passed an ordinance creating a new model for police oversight, accountability, and public safety. The ordinance created the Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability, a seven-member public body, appointed by the mayor, with power to advance systemic reform. The ordinance also created District Councils, three-person public bodies elected in each of Chicago's twenty-two police districts, empowered to work to improve policing and public safety at the district level. The Commission and District Councils bring police officers and Chicago residents together to plan, prioritize, and build mutual trust; strengthen the police accountability system; give Chicagoans a meaningful new role in oversight; and explore and advance alternative effective approaches to public safety.

The ordinance sets out a process to select members of the Commission. Each District Council appoints one of its members to serve on a Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee conducts an application process and nominates at least two candidates for each vacancy on the Commission. The mayor then selects from the Nominating Committee's list of candidates, and the City Council votes on whether to confirm them. The Nominating Committee fulfills one of the enumerated functions of the District Councils under the ordinance, "to ensure the independence and increase the legitimacy of the Commission by participating in the selection of its members". Municipal Code of Chicago (MCC) Section 2-80-070(a)(5).

In March 2024, the Nominating Committee submitted its first-ever nominees for the Commission to the Mayor. In April, the Mayor selected seven candidates for appointment to the Commission, all of whom City Council subsequently confirmed. Because these Commissioners represent the first-ever members of the permanent Commission, the ordinance required the random selection of four of them to serve four-year terms and three to serve two-year terms. This process was designed to ensure that there are always several people on the Commission who have experience serving on the Commission. After the first round of Commissioner appointments, all Commissioners will be appointed for four-year terms.

After serving on the Commission since June 21, 2024, Commissioner Kelly Presley announced her resignation effective October 31, 2024. Commissioner Presley is one of the Commissioners who was randomly selected to serve a four-year term. Commissioner Presley is one of two Commissioners fulfilling the Commission's legal requirement of having at least two members with 10 or more years' experience as a practicing attorney, with significant experience in civil rights, civil liberties, or criminal defense or prosecution (MCC 2-80-040(b)). She is also one of two Commissioners fulfilling the Commission's the legal requirement of having at least two members who reside on the West Side of Chicago and have resided on the West Side of Chicago for at least 360 days immediately preceding appointment.

## REQUEST FOR APPLICATION FOR COMMISSIONER

The Fall 2024 Request for Application for Commissioner marks a special Commissioner nomination cycle to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Commissioner Presley. In addition to the other requirements listed under the ordinance, qualifying candidates must:

1. have at least 10 years' experience as a practicing attorney, with significant experience in civil rights, civil liberties, or criminal defense or prosecution, and
2. reside on the West Side of Chicago and have resided on the West Side of Chicago for at least 360 days immediately preceding appointment.

For all questions pertaining to the Fall 2024 Commissioner nomination cycle, please contact [CommissionNomination@cityofchicago.org](mailto:CommissionNomination@cityofchicago.org) or call 312-742-8888.

**Specific Duties and Responsibilities of a Commissioner:**

*Chicago Municipal Code 2-80-050*

1. Respond to public safety-related community needs and concerns through means including, but not limited to, the following:
  - a. Engaging in community outreach to obtain the perspectives of community members and Chicago Police Department (CPD) employees on police-community relations, CPD policies and practices, and the police accountability system;
  - b. Maintaining connections with representatives of disenfranchised communities and with other community groups throughout the City; and
  - c. Providing CPD, the Police Board, the Civilian Office for Police Accountability (COPA), and the Public Safety Inspector General with community feedback relevant to their operations received as a result of the Commission's public outreach activities;
2. Oversee the District Councils and delegate powers and duties to the District Councils at its discretion and consistent with applicable law;
3. Publish reports as required by Chicago Municipal Code (MCC) 2-80 and report to the public about matters related to policing that concern all Chicago communities;
4. Have access to information, documents, data, and records in order to carry out the Commission's powers and duties, as provided in MCC Sec. 2-80-120;
5. Assess performance of and set goals for the Superintendent of CPD, the Chief Administrator of COPA, and the President of the Police Board;
6. Recommend to the Public Safety Inspector General to conduct research or audits on specific topics or issues, including emergent issues that, in the Commission's judgment, are needed to support public confidence in CPD and related criminal justice practices. If the Commission issues such a recommendation in writing, the Public Safety Inspector General shall respond in writing within ten business days;
7. Review and provide input to the Chief Administrator of COPA, the Public Safety Inspector General, the Superintendent of CPD, the Police Board, and other City departments and offices, including the Mayor, City Council Committee on Police and Fire, or its successor committee, and Corporation Counsel on the police accountability system, police services, and Department policies and practices of significance to the public;
8. Collaborate with CPD, COPA, and the Police Board in the development of new or amended Policy, as provided in MCC Sec. 2-80-110;
9. Draft, review, and approve by majority vote any proposed new or amended Policy, as provided in MCC Sec. 2-80-110;
10. By majority vote and subject to applicable law and reasonable scheduling accommodation, require the attendance of the Superintendent of CPD, the Public Safety Inspector General,

## REQUEST FOR APPLICATION FOR COMMISSIONER

the Chief Administrator of COPA, and the President of the Police Board, or their designees, at any regular or special meeting of the Commission in order to provide updates on matters as requested by the Commission, and to answer questions from the Commission and hear public comments;

11. In the event of a vacancy, interview, assess the qualifications of, and recommend to the Mayor candidates having appropriate qualifications for the positions of CPD Superintendent and Police Board member, as provided in MCC Sec. 2-80-080;
12. Introduce and by two-thirds majority vote adopt a resolution of no confidence in the Superintendent of CPD or a member of the Police Board, as provided in MCC Sec. 2-80-090;
13. Appoint the Chief Administrator of COPA with the advice and consent of the City Council, as provided in MCC Sec. 2-80-080;
14. Remove the Chief Administrator of COPA, as provided in MCC Sec. 2-80-090;
15. Before a City Council vote on the annual budget, review and, if warranted, recommend changes to the proposed CPD budget appropriation;
16. Identify and recommend to the City Council ways to increase effectiveness and efficiency in the use of public safety resources;
17. Identify and recommend to the City Council ways to ensure that CPD resources are used appropriately, taking into account issues that other professionals could adequately address;
18. Identify and recommend to the City Council preventative, proactive, community-based, and evidence-based solutions to violence;
19. Within sixty days after Commission members take office, appoint a Noncitizen Advisory Council, which shall include Chicago residents who are not United States citizens and Chicago residents who are undocumented, and may include people who work on behalf of Chicago residents who are not United States citizens; the Noncitizen Advisory Council shall advise the Commission to ensure that the perspectives and experiences of Chicago residents who are not United States citizens are reflected and incorporated in the Commission's work;
20. Collaborate with CPD regarding the Chicago Alternative Policing Strategies (CAPS) program and other existing or future CPD-led community policing programs;
21. Create operational policies and procedures for the Commission; and
22. Monitor CPD's compliance with its policies.

**Qualifications for Becoming a Commissioner:**

*Chicago Municipal Code 2-80-040(b)*

1. Resident in Chicago for at least the 5 years immediately preceding appointment.
2. At least 5 years' combined experience in one or more of the following fields: law, public policy, social work, psychology, mental health, public safety, community organizing, civil rights, or advocacy on behalf of marginalized communities. (Not applicable to youth Commissioners.)
3. Adequately disclosed any personal, professional, or financial conflict of interest that could reasonably be thought to bear upon the person's performance as a Commissioner.
4. Reputation for integrity, professionalism, and sound judgment.
5. History of leadership and community involvement.
6. Demonstrated ability to engage effectively with all who have a stake in policing, including, but not limited to, marginalized communities, police officers, and public officials.
7. Demonstrated ability to work in groups in a collaborative manner that reflects sound judgment, independence, fairness, and objectivity.
8. Not an employee of CPD, COPA, or the Police Board in any of the five years immediately preceding their appointment.
9. Not a member of the Nominating Committee.

**Composition Requirements for the Full Commission:**

*Chicago Municipal Code 2-80-040(b),(c)*

1. At least 2 Commissioners must have at least 10 years' experience as a practicing attorney, with significant experience in civil rights, civil liberties, or criminal defense or prosecution.
2. At least 1 Commissioner must have at least 10 years' experience in community organizing with a formal affiliation with community-based organizations.
3. Two (2) Commissioners must be between the ages of 18 and 24 years old at the time of appointment. (Not subject to Commissioner eligibility requirement #2, above.)
4. At least 2 Commissioners must have resided on the North Side of Chicago for at least 365 days immediately preceding their appointment.
5. At least 2 Commissioners must have resided on the South Side of Chicago for at least 365 days immediately preceding their appointment.
6. At least 2 Commissioners must have resided on the West Side of Chicago for at least 365 days immediately preceding their appointment.

**Process for Selecting a Commissioner:**

**Nominating Committee:** Chicago Municipal Code (MCC) Sec. 2-80-040 and Sec. 2-80-070 outline the Commissioner selection process. Candidates for the permanent Commission submit applications to the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee is comprised of twenty-two members, with one member from each of the elected three-person District Councils. Each District Council selects a member to serve on the Committee.

**Application Period:** The application period officially opens on October 7, 2024. Per MCC Sec. 2-80-070(c)(2), the Nominating Committee shall receive applications for thirty days after issuing the Request for Application for Commissioner. The application period closes on November 6, 2024.

**Interview Invitations:** After reviewing all applications received, the Nominating Committee will offer interviews to no fewer than four qualified candidates for each existing vacancy. The Nominating Committee is accepting applications for one vacancy created by the recent resignation of a Commissioner. The Nominating Committee will therefore interview at least four qualified candidates for the single vacancy. If the Nominating Committee determines that fewer than four candidates qualify, it will offer interviews to all qualified candidates.

**Nomination Decisions:** Within sixty days after issuing the Request for Application for Commissioner, i.e. by December 6, 2024, the Nominating Committee will meet to select at least two applicants for the vacancy. Each applicant must receive at least fifteen votes from the Nominating Committee to be nominated. The Nominating Committee will nominate the two highest-scoring applicants for each vacancy. The Nominating Committee will then promptly transmit the list of nominees and each nominee's application materials to the Mayor.

**Mayor's Appointment Decisions:** Within thirty days after receiving the list of nominees, i.e. by January 5, 2024, the Mayor shall appoint a candidate from the list of nominees for each vacancy or provide the Nominating Committee with a written explanation as to why the Mayor declined to fill a vacancy with a listed nominee. The Nominating Committee will make this written explanation publicly available on the Commission's website within three business days. Within thirty days of receiving a declination, the Nominating Committee will submit to the Mayor a new list of two nominees for the vacancy. The new list shall not include any candidates from any prior list submitted to the Mayor to fill the current existing vacancies. The Mayor will then have thirty days after receiving the new list to appoint a candidate or decline to appoint a candidate. This process shall continue until the Mayor appoints a candidate for all seven vacancies.

**City Council Approval:** The Mayor shall submit the appointee to the City Council Committee on Police and Fire for review. Appointments must be approved by City Council. If City Council rejects the appointed candidate, the Mayor shall have thirty days to appoint a different candidate from the most recent list or request two new nominees for the vacancy. This process shall continue until City Council confirms an appointee for the vacancy.

**Timeline for Commissioner Selection:**

Monday, October 7, 2024, 12:00 PM	30-day application period opens.
Wednesday, November 6, 2024, 12:00 PM	30-day application period closes.
By Friday, December 6, 2024 (60 days after issuing the Request for Applications)	Nominating Committee meets to select at least two candidates.
By Sunday, January 5, 2024 (30 days after receiving the list of nominees)	Mayor appoints candidates for single open seat on the permanent Commission or provides a written explanation for declining to fill a vacancy with the list of nominated candidates.



## Application Instructions

To apply to be a Commissioner, email the following application materials to [CommissionNomination@cityofchicago.org](mailto:CommissionNomination@cityofchicago.org):

- Completed application form (this document)
- Current resume (maximum 2 pages)
- At least three letters of support from people who can speak to your experience, community involvement, and reputation.

The application form includes an optional question inviting applicants to describe any experiences they have had with policing and the criminal legal system that may have had an impact on their life and on their interest in serving on the Commission. The Nominating Committee may consider these experiences when selecting candidates.

**The deadline to apply is Wednesday, November 6, 2024, at 12:00 PM.**

## Application Form

### Background Questions:

1. Name:
2. Phone number:
3. Email address:
4. Current residential address (*note that based on the CCPSA ordinance and the current needs of the Commission, applicants must reside, and have resided for the last year, in one of the following Community Areas: Humboldt Park, West Town, Austin, West Garfield Park, East Garfield Park, Near West Side, North Lawndale, South Lawndale, and Lower West Side*):
5. If appointed to the Commission, you will serve as one of the West Side representatives on the Commission. Do you have reason to anticipate moving out of the West Side of Chicago over the course of the next four years? If your answer is anything other than no, please explain.
6. To be a commissioner, you must have resided in Chicago for at least the last five years immediately preceding appointment. To comply with residency requirements, please list each of your past residential addresses since April 2019. If you changed your residential address at any point since April 2019, please provide the dates for each time you changed your residential address:

7. You are applying for a four-year term on the Commission. Do you have reason to anticipate moving out of Chicago within the next four years, meaning you would not be able to serve a full term on the Commission? If your answer is anything other than no, please explain.

8. To comply with age verification requirements, please share your birthdate:

9. Which of the following best describes you? (Mark all that apply)

- Asian or Pacific Islander
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or of Latin American Descent
- Native American or Alaskan Native
- White or Caucasian
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Prefer not to say

**Eligibility Questions:**

10. To serve on the Commission, you cannot have worked as an employee of the Chicago Police Department (CPD), the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA), or the Police Board in any of the five years immediately preceding appointment (i.e., since approximately December of 2019). If you were appointed to the Commission this year, would you satisfy this requirement?
- Yes, this does not apply to me.
  - No, I believe that I have worked for one of these agencies in the past.
  - Unsure

If you marked “unsure”, please explain, and include the dates of your past employment.

11. Applicants must have at least ten years of experience as a practicing attorney, with significant experience in civil rights, civil liberties, or criminal defense or prosecution. Please describe how you meet this requirement, including the date you became a licensed attorney. (Limit 200 words)

12. The responsibilities and workload of a Commissioner varies from week to week and month to month. You should prepare to spend an average of twenty hours per week on Commission business. Commission staff will make best efforts to accommodate for your schedule, but you may need to devote time during the workday, weekday evenings, and weekends on Commission business. Do you have reason to anticipate that you will typically not be able to dedicate enough time to serve effectively as a Commissioner?

**Application Questions:**

13. Why do you want to become a Commissioner? (Limit 200-300 words)

14. OPTIONAL: Please describe your experience with policing and the criminal legal system that may have had an impact on your life and on your interest in serving on the Commission. (Limit 200-300 words)

15. Please describe your history of leadership and involvement in your community, through work or volunteer activities. (Limit 200-300 words)

16. Commissioners must be able to work in groups in a collaborative manner that reflects sound judgment, independence, fairness, and objectivity. Please share information about your experience working in groups. (Limit 200-300 words)



17. Commissioners must be able to work well with a wide range of people. Please share information about your experience working with diverse populations. (Limit 200-300 words)

18. Describe your experience engaging with people who have a stake in policing, including, but not limited to, marginalized communities, police officers, and public officials. (Limit 200-300 words)

**END OF APPLICATION FORM**

Please submit this form, a current resume, and three letters of support to  
[CommissionNomination@cityofchicago.org](mailto:CommissionNomination@cityofchicago.org).