



Statement from President Anthony Driver January 30th Commission Meeting

Many months ago, the Independent Monitor in the Consent Decree between the City of Chicago and the State of Illinois told the judge in that case that she thought traffic stops by the Chicago Police Department should be included in the consent decree. That would mean that changes to CPD's traffic stops policy would be made through the consent decree, and that the new policies would be overseen by the independent monitor and the federal judge in the case.

Right now, the CCPSA has the legal authority to make policy on CPD traffic stops. If traffic stops are incorporated in the consent decree without provisions clearly establishing a major role for the Commission in policymaking, then the Commission would be giving up a power it now has, and, more importantly, giving up the opportunity for deep community engagement in the process. So, from the beginning, the CCPSA's position has always been that if traffic stops are included in the consent decree, the Commission would need to continue to play a central role in any policymaking related to traffic stops.

The Commission has been working for months to make sure that there is a clear understanding about the Commission's role in that consent decree work, and a clear understanding that the work would be centered on community engagement. It has taken a long time to get the answers we need. A frustratingly long time.

But this week, we finally got assurances about what this consent decree process would look like. Here are key points:

1. Going forward, the Commission and CPD will work together on traffic stops policy. We'll work with CPD to try to come to an agreement about policy details before the City negotiates with the Attorney General's office on traffic stops policy.
2. The Commission, CPD, and the Department of Law are committed to working together as quickly as possible to develop and enact traffic stops policy that is consistent with the consent decree.
3. The Commission will continue to conduct community engagement while working on policy.

We have written commitments about these points, and we'll be working over the next few days to get all the key details down in writing in a public document. We'll also be working with CPD and the City's Department of Law on a timeline for the process, which we'll make public and report on regularly.

We'll also be meeting probably next week to start working quickly on traffic stops policy that is deeply informed by what we learn in the community engagement process, and by evidence and national best practices.

The community engagement process will include several different components.

- We'll work with District Councils to get their input, so we're hearing from every police district in the city.
- We'll hold listening sessions over the next five months, in locations across the city. We had a listening session in December and another last week, and we'll have more every month. At the end of tonight's meeting, we'll share information about the next listening session.
- We'll meet with targeted focus groups to get input on important issues. For example, we'll have special sessions for youth, for seniors, for members of the disability community, and for law enforcement.
- We have a community survey posted online. We already have more than 400 responses, and we'll continue to work to get more survey responses from more people in more places.

It has taken a long time to get to this point, and we're excited to be moving into the most important work—developing policies that will keep all Chicagoans—civilians and police officers—safer and more secure. And we'll work hard to keep your voices at the center of that work.