

City of Chicago
COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING TYPE	Special Meeting
MEETING DATE	Thursday, September 7, 2023
MEETING LOCATION	National Mexican Museum of Arts
TIME CALLED TO ORDER	6:15pm

ATTENDANCE:

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

QUORUM PRESENT: Yes.

Acronyms:

CCPSA = Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability

AGENDA

- I. President Driver called the meeting to order.
- II. President Driver called the roll and established the quorum.
- III. Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Loizon moved, and Commissioner Troncoso seconded a motion to approve the minutes. There was no debate, and the motion was carried 5-0.
- IV. New Business:

CPD Directives Related to Information on Criminal Enterprises and Street Gangs

Commissioner Driver gave remarks on the Commission's work to eliminate the gang database. He presented the following data:

- According to a conservative estimate, 134,242 people were in a gang database.
- 95% of them were people of color.
- 11% didn't have any specific gang listed next to their name.
- 12% never had a reason listed for inclusion in a database.
- 30,000-70,000 minors were designated as gang members after juvenile arrests.

Furthermore, no notice is given that an individual is on the. There is also no process for people to contest their gang designation.

Commissioner Driver mentioned that an Inspector General report showed that CPD shared this data with over 500 outside agencies, including immigration enforcement.

Commissioner Driver noted that this will be the first time that the Commission will exercise its policymaking authority.

Commissioner Driver added that CPD had made multiple attempts to improve its gang data systems, including by proposing to create a new Criminal Enterprise Information System (CEIS). Less than a month after the Commission's appointment, CPD classified the order creating the CEIS in a way that would allow CPD to enact the order without the Commission's approval. Driver explained that the order being voted on would guarantee that CCPSA has oversight over this issue.

The Commission's order makes two changes to how CPD makes policies.

- First, the order places all CPD gang data procedures under the umbrella of its official policy system. That means whenever there is a police practice related to gang data that isn't already based on a formalized CPD policy, CPD will need to develop an order that governs that practice. This creates more formalization, more transparency, and more accountability around gang data practices, from how it's collected to how it's used to how it's stored and maintained.
- Second, the order says that whenever CPD proposes a new policy on how it works with gang data, it will classify the policy as a general order, subject to Commission oversight and approval.

Commissioner Driver noted that the Commission will coordinate a process with CPD to ensure the order is implemented in a thoughtful and professional manner, and stated that Chicago's safety requires smart approaches and strategies to confront gang violence.

Driver stated that he hopes the new policy will give closure to all the Chicagoans who felt the harmful impacts of the gang database over the years, and who fought so hard to bring the issue to light.

Commissioner Driver ended by saying that the issue was personal to him. His father was listed on the gang database, even though he had never been involved with gangs in his life. He also stated that this issue is personal to the community and to all those impacted by the database.

Driver moved to adopt the directive Related to Information on Criminal Enterprises and Street Gangs. Commissioner Terry seconded.

There was no debate on the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

V. Forum Discussion with Chief Snelling (CPD Superintendent nominee)

Chicago Superintendent Search

Commissioners Driver & Terry, who led the search process, provided an overview of the new Superintendent search.

The process created an opportunity for more community input than there had ever been in the past.

On April 7, the Commission undertook a nationwide search. A national search firm, which works exclusively on police executive searches, helped to circulate the application across the country.

The Commission received 54 applications. Based on the application brochure, the Commission developed a scoring rubric to evaluate written applications and to assess candidate interviews. After an initial screening and a thorough review of the applications by each Commissioner, the Commission invited 13 applicants to a first round of interviews.

After the first round, the Commission invited 6 finalists to a second round of interviews.

The Commission solicited an unprecedented level of input from the community.

A thorough review of the community process was given.

- The Commission took great care to ensure the voices of the community were at the forefront of the process.
- The Commission conducted seven community listening sessions across the entire city, including a virtual session and a session in Spanish.
- The Commission met with the three unions that represent the vast majority of sworn members of the Chicago Police Department.
- The Commission surveyed community members, organizations, members of law enforcement, and members of the newly elected District Councils, obtaining over 600 responses.
- The commission received 270 surveys from sworn police officers.
- The Commission also met with 34 subject matter experts.
- The Commission held targeted listening sessions with over 65 organizations spanning across multiple sectors, including activist and advocacy groups, affinity groups, business groups, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, labor groups, legal aid providers, and social service agencies.

The goal of the meeting was to give the public an opportunity to meet Chief Snelling and ask him questions. The Commission will hold four more meetings with the Superintendent following City Council confirmation.

President Driver provided an opportunity for Chief Snelling to make comments.

Chief Snelling Comments:

Chief Snelling provided an introduction of his commitment to Chicago and years on the Chicago Police Department.

Chief Snelling stressed his commitment to working with the community and made several commitments. These included.

1. Working with the community to increase the number of trained mental health responders.
2. Setting up meetings with each District Council.
3. Follow-up on roll-call attendance by District Council members.
4. Working with the community on better recruitment efforts in underrepresented communities.
5. Better training for officers when working with new arrivals staying at police stations.

Commissioner Questions:

Commissioner Gomez thanked the Chief for being there. He stated that this is a historic moment in Chicago. This is a collaborative effort and people are optimistic about the future. He asked if Chief Snelling would stand up when there is political pressure.

Chief Snelling stated that he is not afraid of criticism and will make the best decisions for those involved.

Commissioner Loizon asked Chief Snelling about his strategy for improving clearance rates and reducing violent crime.

Chief Snelling's response emphasized better training, expanded use of technology, and more autonomy for district commanders. He also stated that CPD is doing a better job of tracing crime guns.

Commissioner Terry asked Chief Snelling what he foresees as the biggest impediments he will face.

Chief Snelling responded that money is always an issue. The Department needs more money for technology. This will help with stolen vehicles which are being used in other crimes. Manpower is always an issue and will require additional attention.

Commissioner Troncoso asked Chief Snelling what he would do to make sure citizens are responded to when they file a police report, and whether he would fix the “out-of-date” reporting system. This is an important factor in how the community feels about the police.

Chief Snelling responded that CPD needs to work on this. Supervision is important. The Department needs to find a better way to respond to people.

Commissioner Driver asked chief Snelling what are his non-negotiables?

Chief Snelling responded that his integrity is non-negotiable. Being able to sleep at night is very important.

Public Comment: The Commission opened the meeting up to public comment. The public was allowed to make comments or ask Chief Snelling questions.

Public comment may be viewed at the Chicago CCPSA YouTube page:
www.youtube.com/@chicagoccpsa.

VI. Announcement of the next regular meeting:

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for September 28 at 6:30 at Truman College.

VII. Adjournment.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED 8:20 PM.