

City of Chicago
COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING TYPE	Regular Meeting
MEETING DATE	Thursday, May 25, 2023
MEETING LOCATION	Harry S. Truman College
TIME CALLED TO ORDER	6:37 pm

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioner Name	Present or Absent / In-Person or Remote
Rev. Dr. Beth Brown	Present, Remote
Anthony Driver, Jr. – President, Chair	Present, In-Person
Oswaldo Gomez – Vice President	Present, In-Person
Yvette Loizon	Present, In-Person
Cliff Nellis	Present, In-Person
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. President Driver called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.
- II. Commissioner Driver called the roll. Commissioners Nellis, Driver, Gomez, Loizon, and Brown, (who attended remotely) were present. Commissioner Troncoso initially joined virtually, however joined in-person after roll was taken. Having a quorum, the commission proceeded with its business. Commissioner Terry joined the meeting after a quorum had been established and was added to the roll accordingly.
- III. The Commission held a public comment session. One speaker offered comments. Public comment may be viewed at the Chicago CCPSA YouTube page:
www.youtube.com/@chicagoccpsa.
- IV. New Business
- V. Minutes: The commission approved the March minutes on a vote of 5-0-0.

New Business

Commissioner Loizon began by explaining the consent decree and how it applies to CCPSA. She cited paragraph 525 and 532 of the consent decree.

Commissioner Brown continued by offering more detail on the responsibilities of COPA.

Commissioner Troncoso delivered the remainder of the update regarding how the public can contribute to the community input process. The ways he listed included submitting public comment online, delivering public comment at the next commission meeting, talking to a local District Council member, reaching out to the Commission at CommunityCommissionPublicComment@cityofchicago.org.

Reports and Updates

Commissioner Troncoso joined in-person.

Commissioner Terry began by delivering an update on the superintendent search process. She stated that the Commission is responsible for this by this City's ordinance. The Commission has hosted seven community forums and conducted outreach to a variety of interest groups.

Commissioner Driver continued the update by sharing that surveys were being distributed this week to CPD personnel and that focus group meetings with CPD personnel were being scheduled. He then gave more information about outreach to date and the timeline for the process. Nominations were due by July 14th and the Mayor must select a nominee by August 13 or decline to pick any of the candidates the Commission provided. If the Mayor declines to pick one of the Commission's candidates, he must explain in writing his reason for this decision. In addition, if the Mayor rejects all the candidates recommended by the Commission, the Commission will come up with a new list of three. That process continues until the Mayor picks a superintendent from the Commission's list.

Commissioner Driver asked if any Commissioners had questions.

Commissioner Loizon offered up a statement of encouragement to refresh the goal and expectations for the new superintendent. Speaking directly to Superintendent Waller, who she noted was in the room. Loizon spoke about the budget recommendations with respect to the police response times. She acknowledged and offered condolences to Officer Areanah Preston's family. She notes that the blame for her death doesn't lie with any police officer. She noted that it took almost 30 minutes for someone to get to Officer Preston when she was shot. She requested that the Commission refocus on police workforce allocation when the work of selecting a superintendent concludes.

Commissioner Driver requested additional comments or questions.

Commissioner Nellis noted that a workforce allocation study was part of the goals that were submitted.

Commissioner Gomez asked for clarification about whether it's an official proposal or open-ended.

Commissioner Loizon makes it clear that it was open-ended.

Commissioner Driver agreed.

Associations Order

Commissioner Terry offered an update on the progress that CPD and CCPSA have made on CPD's draft General Order regarding a prohibition on associations with criminal organizations and groups that practice or support illegal discrimination and prejudice.

Commissioner Gomez asked if the Commission had received comments or feedback on their newest version of the policy.

Commissioner Terry reiterated that they have received what she's outlined in the statement.

Police Board

Commissioner Troncoso delivered a statement regarding the Police Board. He spoke about upcoming vacancies on the Police Board and explained the process to apply to be a Police Board member.

No questions were asked.

Pretextual Traffic Stops

Commissioner Nellis began by stating that the views he was expressing were his own and not those of the Commission.

Commissioner Loizon asked Commissioner Nellis to clarify the intended definition of "scorpion-like" police practices.

Commissioner Nellis answered that he meant an unlawful/unconstitutional stop that leads to excessive or lethal force.

Commissioner Loizon noted that a recent study by *Impact for Equity* that reports on traffic stops, appeared to speak to stops specifically but not the violence component that Commissioner Nellis mentions in his definition.

Commissioner Nellis said that Commissioners Brown and Troncoso, have been working with him on finding an answer to that question. They are working with community organizations on getting data.

Commissioner Loizon requested a public presentation on the data Commissioner Nellis had referenced and asked if there is a specific policy that memorializes scorpion-like police practices. The Commissioner requested that she and Commissioner Terry receive first-hand knowledge of Commissioner Nellis, Brown and Troncoso findings.

Commissioner Nellis answered that that is a part of the investigation, and they don't yet have the data but are working on getting it. Nellis reiterated that he was speaking for himself now. The *Impact for Equity* traffic stop report stated that high level officials in CPD were championing high-volume traffic stops, and this could indicate widespread support at CPD.

Commissioner Loizon agreed that the type of police stops Commissioner Nellis is describing are problematic but that's not the same thing as scorpion-like police practices as he defined previously. She asked if there is any evidence that these policies or practices exist in CPD.

Commissioner Nellis said the purpose of the investigation is to determine if this is happening.

Commissioner Loizon asked if we have any data or information that says that CPD is engaging in scorpion-like practices in Chicago.

Commissioner Nellis said he believes there are scorpion-like practices at CPD. That is why they are working on getting data and undertaking this investigation, but they are still investigating to determine if this is happening.

Commissioner Loizon asked where we are today with respect to scorpion-like practices.

Commissioner Nellis stated that based on some of the data that he, Commissioner Brown, and Commissioner Troncoso have seen included in the *Impact for Equity* report there is reason for concern.

Commissioner Troncoso said that scorpion-like units are akin to mass volume stops. They are trying to determine whether that can lead to an environment of scorpion-like practices.

Commissioner Brown said that she had read the *Impact for Equity* report and hadn't drawn any conclusions about the command staff of CPD. Before she draws any conclusions about people whose names were included in the report, she wants to have direct conversations with them.

Commissioner Gomez expressed concern about data answering questions and explained how data can be used effectively in this type of process. He spoke to the need for the centralization of strategies as opposed to fragmentation and the autonomy of commanders.

Commissioner Driver stated that as a black man, the discussion made him uncomfortable. He listened to both speakers and left the conversation with more questions than answers. Commissioner Driver stated that the Commission should not speak about investigations before they are completed. The Commissioners need to take into consideration that a public dialogue is happening in the city around policing and this discourse may have done more harm than good.

There were no further questions.

Commissioner Driver made closing announcements, including:

- The District Councils have begun having their monthly meetings. He encouraged residents to visit the CCPSA website and to click the link entitled "Information on District Councils" where people can find the names of District Council members, notices and agendas for meetings, and updates from local District Council.
- The Commission's social media information
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ChicagoCCPSA/> or search Community Commission for Public Safety & Accountability, **Instagram:** @ccpsa_chicago, **Twitter:** @ccpsa_chicago, **Youtube:** @chicagoccpsa.
- The Commission's next regular meeting will be Thursday, June 29, 2023, at 6:30pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52pm.