

City of Chicago
COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING TYPE	Regular Meeting
MEETING DATE	Thursday, April 24, 2025
MEETING LOCATION	Pui Tak Center
TIME CALLED TO ORDER	6:31PM

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioner Name	Present or Absent / In-Person or Remote
Anthony Driver, Jr. – President, Chair	Present, In-Person
Aaron Gottlieb	Present, In-Person
Abierre Minor	Present, In-Person
Gina Piemonte	Present, In-Person
Angel Rubi Navarajo	Present, In-Person
Remel Terry – Vice President	Present, In-Person
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

IMT = Independent Monitoring Team

OAG = Office of Attorney General

PB = Police Board

- I. President Driver called the meeting to order.
- II. President Driver called the roll and established the quorum.
- III. President Driver introduced recently appointed Commissioner Gina Piemonte. Commissioner Piemonte gave brief remarks.
- IV. The Commission held a public comment session. Ten (10) speakers offered comments. Public comment may be viewed at the Chicago CCPSA YouTube page:
www.youtube.com/@chicagoccpsa.
- V. **Approval of the Minutes**

President Driver called for a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held on March 27th. Commissioner Gottlieb seconded the motion. There was no debate on the matter and the motion passed 7-0.

VI. New Business

Executive Director of Office of Constitutional Policing and Reform Presentation

President Driver introduced Allyson Clark Henson, Executive Director of the Office of Constitutional Policing and Reform, to present updates on CPD's workforce allocation study and community policing assessment. Following Executive Director Clark Henson's presentation, Commissioner Driver invited the Commissioners to ask questions.

The full presentation and Commissioner questions may be viewed at the Chicago CCPSA YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/@chicagoccpa>.

VII. Reports and Updates

Traffic Stops Work

President Driver introduced the next order of business: an update on the Commission's traffic stops policy work. On Monday, April 21, the City of Chicago submitted two versions of a draft traffic stops policy to the Illinois Attorney General and the Independent Monitor in the Consent Decree between the City of Chicago and the State of Illinois. One version of the policy is from CPD and one is from the Commission.

The policies were submitted to the OAG and the IMT because the Monitor advised the judge overseeing the Consent Decree that traffic stops should be included in the Consent Decree. If the traffic stops policy is included in the consent decree, then changes to CPD's policy would be made through the procedures laid out in the Consent Decree and the policy would be overseen by the IMT and federal judge. President Driver stated that the Commission has always said that if traffic stops are included in the Consent Decree, the Commission would need to play an important role.

The traffic stops policy will govern how CPD conducts, reviews, and trains officers on traffic stops and lays out how the policy would be assessed and potentially changed in the future. President Driver began by explaining the provisions of the policy that CPD and a majority of Commissioners agreed on. The policy describes when and how Police Department members can conduct traffic stops. It says that traffic stops must be conducted in a way that guarantees fair and equal treatment under the law. It says that CPD members will act in a way that promotes safe and positive police-community interactions and treats all people with courtesy and dignity. It says that traffic stops will be conducted without bias and not based on factors like race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, or immigration status.

The policy also lays out specific procedures that CPD members would need to follow when conducting traffic stops, such as every traffic stop would need to be recorded on camera and CPD members would need to be clearly identifiable as CPD officers. The policy describes when a police officer would be permitted to remove a driver or passenger from a car, or to handcuff the driver or passenger, or search the car and what police officers would need to communicate to drivers or passengers when any of those things happen. The policy says that every traffic stop would need to be documented in a "Stop Report," and, unless a traffic stop results in a ticket or an arrest, CPD must give the driver a written receipt with information about the stop.

The policy also says that at the end of every shift, CPD supervisors would be required to review every traffic stop to see if it was conducted and documented properly. Information about all stops would be publicly posted on CPD's website. Every year, CPD would do an annual report on traffic stops and at least every two years, CPD would do a comprehensive review and assessment of traffic stops policies, and that process would include community engagement, and work with the Commission.

President Driver noted that Commissioner Wortham did not propose making additional changes to the policy.

President Driver shared that a majority of Commissioners believe that two specific, significant changes are necessary. A majority of Commissioners think certain traffic stops for vehicle equipment or license compliance violations do more harm than good and support limiting stops for six different vehicle equipment or license compliance violations, including:

- Vehicle registration that expired within the last year;
- Having one non-functioning headlight, tail light, or brake light during daylight hours, as long as the vehicle has one functioning headlight, tail light, or brake light; or
- A missing or improperly displayed front license plate, as long as the vehicle has a properly displayed rear license plate.

A majority of Commissioners also support providing exceptions to those restrictions—meaning that there would be some situations when CPD could make stops for these violations—but there is not a majority view about what the specific exceptions would be. Some proposed exceptions include:

- Allowing stops in those otherwise restricted categories if police have Reasonable Articulate Suspicion of a Class A misdemeanor or felony; or
- Allowing stops in otherwise restricted categories when a police officer believes the violation creates an immediate threat to public safety.

President Driver stated that consent searches were the second big difference between CPD's draft version of the traffic stops policy and the Commission's draft version. A consent search is when an officer asks for permission to search a car, and the driver gives permission. If the driver gives consent, then it is legal for the officer to conduct the search. President Driver explained that CPD's version states that CPD could only conduct a consent search if an officer has "specific articulable information regarding suspected criminal activity" other than the activity that was the basis for the traffic stop. For example, if an officer makes a traffic stop for a broken tail light and wants to search the car, when the officer asks the driver for consent to search the car, the officer would need to have some specific information that ties the driver to the suspected criminal activity.

President Driver stated that a majority of Commissioners think that CPD members should only be able to conduct "consent searches" of a vehicle if the officer has "reasonable articulable suspicion" or "probable cause" of criminal activity, not just information about suspected criminal activity. President Driver shared two proposed policy options on consent searches from some Commissioners:

- Some Commissioners think there should be "reasonable articulable suspicion" or "probable cause" of suspected criminal activity other than the basis of the traffic stop.

- Some Commissioners think there should be “reasonable articulable suspicion” or “probable cause” of a Class A Misdemeanor or a felony.

President Driver noted that one Commissioner did not support making changes to CPD’s proposed policy for consent searches.

President Driver then provided a summary of the Commission’s next steps on the traffic stops policy. He explained that the City of Chicago, including both CPD and the Commission, will work with the OAG and the IMT to try to come to an agreement on the inclusion of traffic stops into the Consent Decree. If traffic stops are included, the City of Chicago and the OAG will try to come to an agreement on the traffic stops policy. If the parties cannot come to an agreement, the Consent Decree states that the judge can hear all sides and then decide how to move forward.

President Driver allowed for Commissioners’ remarks on the matter.

Vice President Terry acknowledged the amount of work that has been done on the policy thus far and thanked all of the parties who have been involved in the work, including Commissioners, Commission staff, and Lieutenant Kapustianyk and his team. Vice President Terry also noted that the policy was just the beginning and there is a lot of work ahead as the issue will not be solved overnight. Vice President Terry concluded her remarks by thanking everyone who has participated in this process.

Commissioner Gottlieb expressed that he did not believe the Commission’s draft policy does enough to curb the practice of pretextual traffic stops. Commissioner Gottlieb explained that a pretextual stop is when an officer stops someone for a traffic infraction, but the real reason for the stop is to allow the officer to investigate that person for a separate, unrelated crime that the officer does not have strong evidence the person committed. Commissioner Gottlieb acknowledged that the Commission’s draft policy restricts the use of six low-level and equipment violations but noted that CPD only began utilizing those six low-level infractions after 2016, when CPD reduced its reliance on pedestrian stop and frisk. Commissioner Gottlieb repeated the need to explicitly prohibit the use of traffic stops as a pretext to investigate criminal behavior as CPD may respond to the proposed traffic stops policy by utilizing infractions that are not included in the Commission’s restricted list. Commissioner Gottlieb concluded by encouraging people to read the traffic stops documents made public by the Commission.

Commissioner Minor explained her position that a police officer must have reasonable articulable suspicion of a Class A misdemeanor or felony to make a stop for vehicle equipment or license compliance. Commissioner Minor, citing to the Illinois Criminal Code, stated that Class A misdemeanors include unlawful use of a driver’s license, reckless driving, DUIs, hit and runs, street takeovers, fleeing or attempting to elude officers, possession of stolen property, and unlawful use of a weapon. Commissioner Minor expressed that she did not believe the public safety threat standard supported by some Commissioners would stop the current practice of pretextual traffic stops because it was too vague and subjective and relies on a police officer’s belief. Commissioner Minor noted that CPD’s foot pursuit policy limits police officer pursuits to an offense of a Class A misdemeanor or higher. Commissioner Minor concluded by welcoming community feedback on the traffic stops policy.

Commissioner Piemonte shared that in her career she has seen firsthand the results of pretextual stops and the effects it has on the community and police department. Commissioner

Piemonte stated that she was excited to be part of this work, and she was looking forward to hearing from the community and helping to move this forward.

Commissioner Rubi Navarajo opened his remarks by addressing the dangerousness of traffic stops and how some people feel unsafe during an interaction with a police officer during a traffic stop while officers may have reason to believe their immediate safety is at risk. Commissioner Rubi Navarajo shared that he supported a balanced approach to addressing traffic stops, where potentially harmful interactions between police officers and community members do not need to be increased. Commissioner Rubi Navarajo also addressed CPD's resource allocation in relation to traffic stops and asked how much time CPD is spending on pulling over a car, instead of responding to calls for service. Commissioner Rubi Navarajo emphasized the difference between a traffic stop and an investigatory stop and the need for clarity on the distinction in policy. Commissioner Rubi Navarajo concluded by stating the goal of the traffic stops policy is to keep people safe, keep people alive, and ensure that the resources are being used constitutionally and efficiently.

Commissioner Wortham expressed her commitment to public safety and working with CPD and community members to craft a traffic stops policy. Commissioner Wortham acknowledged her opposition to the Commission's proposed policy changes for restrictions and elevated standards for consent search as the stops being conducted are considered lawful stops, but believed CPD's draft traffic stop policy addresses many of the concerns people have shared regarding interactions during traffic stops. Commissioner Wortham shared her desire to ensure CPD has every single tool in their toolbox to keep the city safe and asked people to continue sharing their perspectives on the traffic stops policy with the Commission to ensure that the feedback received represents diverse opinions. Commissioner Wortham concluded by referencing an overlap in increased traffic stops with a high murder rate percentage in the Black community and emphasized the need to acknowledge the role violent offenders have played in deadly traffic stops.

President Driver thanked the Commission, the Commission's staff, and the community members who have shared their thoughts with the Commission. President Driver shared his experience being pulled over by the police department five times in the last year and how he believed three of those stops were pretextual. President Driver expressed his dueling frustration that he was pulled over so many times but also, as the victim of a violent robbery, he wished those individuals had been stopped. President Driver acknowledged that the traffic stops policy must strike a balance to keep people safe. President Driver also emphasized the importance of distinguishing between the two types of stops that officers conduct. The first is a traffic stop for a vehicle code violation. The second is an investigatory stop where an officer must have reasonable articulable suspicion of a crime in order to conduct the stop. President Driver noted that the policy being discussed by the Commission is a traffic stops policy and that the other type of stop, investigatory stops, already has a dedicated policy in the Consent Decree.

Commissioner Minor responded by reiterating that she believes reasonable articulable suspicion is a strong standard for a traffic stop. Commissioner Gottlieb agreed with Commissioner Minor and stated that he and President Driver disagree on this point.

Commissioner Wortham asked people to read the draft traffic stops policies and provide feedback on the language. Commissioner Wortham shared that further community outreach will include a District Councilor webinar, a community webinar, and focus groups sessions and that the feedback will be considered in the development of the final traffic stops policy.

To view both CPD and the Commission's draft traffic stops policies, please visit the CCPSA website: https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/ccpsa/supp_info/traffic-stop-policy.html.

CPD Goals

Commissioner Minor provided an update on CPD's 2025 goals.

1. Workforce Allocation and Community Policing
 - a. Executive Director Allyson Clark Henson provided updates on the workforce allocation study and community policing assessment in her presentation.
 - b. Commissioners Driver and Minor stated they will be meeting with First Deputy Talley to discuss CPD's interim approach to workforce allocation before the study is completed.
 - c. CPD and CCPSA held a joint training on April 16, 2025, on CPD General Order G01-11, which describes how the Commission, District Councils, and CPD interact.
2. Prohibitions on Criminal and Biased Organizations
 - a. In November 2023, the Commission passed a policy which clarified and strengthened CPD's ban on police officers belonging to, participating in, or associating with criminal or biased organizations. In quarter one, CPD developed and submitted a training on the general order to the Consent Decree Independent Monitor and the Illinois Attorney General. If there are no objections from either party, the Department will begin working on implementing the training.
 - b. CPD also worked with COPA to better track allegations that a police officer has associated with or participated in a criminal organization, bias-based organization, or a gang in order to make it easier to enforce the policy and assess how well the policy is being enforced.
3. Member Wellness and Support
 - a. CPD reported that it has been meeting every month with City departments that play a role in maintaining City government buildings. The meetings have discussed maintenance issues, facility improvements, and developing a longer-term plan to make significant changes to CPD buildings that need the most work.
 - b. CPD reported that it has been working on developing an Early Intervention and Support System (EIS System) to identify police officers whose behavior suggest that they may be at-risk of problems in the future. In quarter one, CPD has been working with an outside vendor to create a new system that will collect information about the performance of CPD employees. CPD anticipates having the system partially implemented in 2026.
4. Victims Services
 - a. In quarter one, CPD reported launching an Office of Victim Services to provide assistance to victims of domestic violence and non-fatal shootings in several districts. CPD also developed and began implementing a formal tracking system for services provided to victims, including referrals, outreach efforts, and the number of community members served.

COPA Goals

Commissioner Gottlieb provided an update on COPA's 2025 goals. COPA has four goals for 2025 and each one had deliverables due in quarter one.

1. COPA reported that it has begun reviewing its current communications and media policy and has contacted six other oversight agencies and six law enforcement agencies to discuss ways to improve COPA's policy.

2. COPA reported that it has reviewed its current pattern and practice policy, identified revisions to the policy, and outlined a plan to achieve this goal by the end of 2025. COPA also provided the types of stakeholders it will prioritize for outreach on its pattern and practice policy.
3. COPA provided a robust quarter one report on its community engagement plan for its mediation policy. COPA reported that the community engagement plan was discussed with a group of District Councilors from each of the five police areas. COPA is also engaging with public safety professionals and subject matter experts on its mediation policy. COPA expects to finalize its community engagement plan in quarter two.
4. COPA reported it has begun initial research for a policy that will define and support the collaborative relationship between COPA and CCPSA. COPA has looked at similar policies that could be helpful models and have reached out to subject matter experts.

Police Board Goals

Commissioner Rubi Navarajo provided an update on the Police Board's 2025 goal: Review and update the Rules and Regulations of the Chicago Police Department. For quarter one, President Kyle Cooper reported that the Police Board is currently holding conversations with public sector stakeholders including Superintendent Larry Snelling, the Department of Law, and COPA. The Police Board has also spoken with past Police Board presidents about previous attempts to rewrite the rules. Commissioner Rubi Navarajo shared that the Police Board's next steps will be to engage the broader community, including District Councilors and members of law enforcement, and to present at a future Commission meeting to review the process and give an overview of the role CPD's Rules and Regulations have in Chicago's police accountability system.

COPA Chief Administrator Search

Vice President Terry provided an update on the COPA Chief Administrator search. The Commission will be hosting a virtual listening session on April 30th to hear from community members about what qualities the Commission should be looking for in a COPA Chief Administrator.

Community Engagement Working Group

Commissioner Minor provided an update on the Community Engagement working group. This month, the Community Engagement working group and the Policy working group spoke with Mikva Challenge on traffic stops.

Commissioner Minor shared the engagement she has done during the month of April:

1. Attended DC006 meeting about traffic stops, teen takeovers, and youth violence prevention;
2. Met with DC015 to discuss pretextual traffic stops, mayoral task force, and alternative response; and
3. Spoke about the Commission at Hedges Elementary's career day.

VIII. Announcement of the Next Meeting

President Driver announced that the next meeting will be Thursday, May 29 at South Shore International College Prep.

IX. Close

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08PM