

BEFORE THE POLICE BOARD OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO

**IN RE VIDEO CONFERENCING FOR DISCIPLINARY)
HEARINGS)
)**

THIRD GENERAL OMNIBUS ORDER

On July 24, 2020, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Police Board entered a General Omnibus Order on conducting disciplinary hearings via two-way video conferencing (such as the Zoom platform). On June 17, 2021, following a decline in cases and hospitalizations, increasing vaccinations, updated guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and local authorities, and a re-opening of City of Chicago offices, the Board entered a Second General Omnibus Order. Now, with record numbers of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations due to the highly-contagious omicron variant of the disease, the Board determines that conducting hearings via Zoom is once again “necessary to further an important public policy” in many circumstances. Therefore, the June 17, 2021, Second General Omnibus Order is hereby **vacated** and replaced with this Third General Omnibus Order.

Conducting an entire disciplinary hearing or a portion thereof via Zoom will be permitted upon a determination by the Hearing Officer assigned to the case that good cause exists for doing so.¹

It shall also be within the discretion of the Hearing Officer to order and enforce rules for in-person proceedings to protect the health and safety of the participants and the public,

¹The parties shall continue to have the option of filing a motion to have all or a portion of the hearing via Zoom, and it shall be within the discretion of the Hearing Officer assigned to the case to grant or deny such motion; in addition, the Board continues to encourage the parties to consider reaching agreement to have all or a portion of the hearing via Zoom. However, the filing of a motion or the agreement of the parties shall not be required for the Hearing Officer to determine that good cause exists for conducting all or a portion of the hearing via Zoom.

including but not limited to requiring the wearing of a mask by all persons in the hearing room, except a witness during testimony.²

In the event that conducting some or all of the disciplinary hearing via Zoom is allowed, counsel and all case participants shall behave as if they were present in person. For example, counsel is prohibited from communicating with witnesses during the hearing, and the Respondent shall have the ability to confer privately with counsel during the conference. Recording the proceeding is not allowed by anyone except the Hearing Officer or the staff of the Police Board through the approved recording system. For security and enforcement of Police Board standards, the Board may disable certain video conferencing features (including but not limited to chat, screen share, whiteboard, Q&A, raise hand, or react). The public shall have access to the Zoom proceeding via audio conference.

The Hearing Officer is authorized to conduct pre-hearing conferences via Zoom and to conduct status hearings via Zoom or audio conference.

This Order is adopted and entered by a majority of the members of the Police Board: Ghian Foreman, Paula Wolff, Steven A. Block, Mareil  B. Cusack, Nanette Doorley, Michael Eaddy, Steve Flores, Jorge Montes, and Andrea L. Zopp.

DATED AT CHICAGO, COUNTY OF COOK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, THIS 20th DAY OF JANUARY, 2022.

Attested by:



GHIAN FOREMAN
President

²The Board's hearing room has clear dividers between participants and is set up to allow for social distancing.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Max A Caproni".

MAX A. CAPRONI
Executive Director