Twenty-one members of the public spoke during the public comments portion of the meeting. See the transcript of the meeting, posted on the Board’s website, for a complete report of each speaker’s remarks.

The Chicago Police Department responded to the remarks of the following speakers: Monte Rollerson, Jennifer Edwards, June Norfleet, Lori Burns, Matt Brandon, Brad Redrick, and John Perryman. (See below).

The Office of the Police Board determined that the remarks made by the other speakers did not require a response in addition to that provided at the meeting.
July 14, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Max A. Caproni  
Executive Director  
Chicago Police Board  
30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 1220  
Chicago, IL 60602  
Max.Caproni@cityofchicago.org

Re: Response to Community Input from the May 21, 2020 and June 18, 2020 Police Board Meeting

Dear Mr. Caproni,

Thank you for forwarding the transcript of the May 21 and June 18, 2020 Police Board Meeting so that the community comments made at these meetings can be reviewed, and the Chicago Police Department (CPD) can provide a report of the steps it has taken to address the concerns that these individuals raise.

Jennifer Edwards, June Norflett, and Matt Brandon have spoken before the Police Board on several occasions and the Department thanks them for the positive feedback about the community conversations, constructive criticism and possible solutions and welcome their participation in future meetings. Particularly during this time when the Department needs the support of the Community and is striving to improve the relationship between officers and the communities they serve, the remarks made by these individuals is particularly appreciated.

Ms. Edwards, Mr. Rollerson and Mr. Redrick spoke about the street parties that are occurring in her neighborhood. These parties expose the community to a higher risk of COVID as well as the litter and noise created by these unlawful street parties. The Department understands the concern and frustration caused by these events and will continue to respond to complaints related to these parties. The Department continues to explore all enforcement options that can be used against these illegal parties and is open to any information and suggestions residents may have to help the Department learn when and where the parties are planned to allow...
for appropriate resources allocated to the illegal street parties. Given the recent uptick in crime the Department is working to respond to all calls as quickly as possible. During his statements Mr. Brandon expressed the importance that the lived experience noted in community feedback be inclusive of positive interactions with the Police. To quote Mr. Brandon, “there are thousands of CPD officers who risk their lives in our communities everyday with positive outcome.” The Department could not agree more and are working on a plan to include all voices in the community so as to accurately reflect both positive and negative experiences. As this process moves forward the Department will publicize these opportunities for inclusion and hopes to hear more from all members of the community.

Ms. Edwards, Ms. Norfleet, Ms. Burns and Mr. Brandon addressed an idea first presented earlier in the year to expand the cadet program and integrate it into community policing. The Department applauds this idea and intends to determine which, if any, portions it can implement into its Community Policing program. The idea of community policing begins in the Academy and continues throughout the Department. It is important to note though the very real financial limitation the City and Department are facing and the cost associated with the proposed program. That said, the information provided by these speakers has been forwarded to several groups in the Department with an eye to including as much as possible.

The next speaker at the June 18, 2020 Police Board meeting was Mr. Perryman, a resident of the 11th District. Mr. Perryman expressed his frustration with the policing in the 11th District and requested a plan moving forward as to how the 11th District intended to address certain crime spots in the community. That plan was provided to Mr. Perryman the week after the Police Board meeting. The plan was provided after a conversation between Mr. Perryman and the Superintendent wherein Mr. Perry raised his concerns to the Superintendent, Chief of Patrol and Commander of the 11th District. The Department has taken great steps to be responsive to Mr. Perryman’s requests and complaints since they began in 2017, several members of the 11th District have responded to his requests in writing and the Commander has met with Mr. Perryman to address his complaints. The 11th District is a very challenging district that the Department works daily to improve.

Thank you again for this opportunity and the Department looks forward to upcoming opportunities for additional community input.

Sincerely,

Dana M. O'Malley
General Counsel
Office of the Superintendent