Chicago Police Board Public Meeting

Report of Proceeding
Taken on: January 21, 2016
CITY OF CHICAGO POLICE BOARD MEETING

Report of Proceedings had at the City of Chicago Police Board Meeting held at 3510 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, on the 21st day of January, 2016, commencing at the hour of 7:30 p.m.

APPEARANCES:

JOHN ESCALANTE  
   Interim Superintendent of Police,
WILLIAM BAZAREK
SHARON FAIRLEY  
   Acting Chief Administrator, Independent Police Review Authority,
LORI E. LIGHTFOOT  
   President,
GHIAN FOREMAN  
   Vice President,
MELISSA M. BALLATE
WILLIAM F. CONLON
RITA A. FRY  
JOHN H. SIMPSON
ROHDA D. SWEENEY
CLAUDIA R. VALENZUELA
MS. LIGHTFOOT: Good evening, we are going to begin tonight's meeting. My name is Lori Lightfoot and I am president of the Chicago Police Board, and we are going to call the meeting to order. Board member Eaddy is unable to attend this meeting in person and wishes to attend via audio conference. Is there a motion to permit him to do so?

MR. FOREMAN: So moved.

MR. CONLON: Second.

MS. LIGHTFOOT: All in favor?

(chorus of ayes.) Any opposed? Motion passes.

MR. EADDY: Thank you very much.

MS. LIGHTFOOT: The first item of business is the approval of the Board's public meeting -- minutes of the Board's public meeting of December 9, 2015. Is there a motion to approve the minutes?

MS. FRY: So moved.

MR. FOREMAN: Second.

MS. LIGHTFOOT: All in favor?

(chorus of ayes). Any opposed? The motion passes.

Our next regular public meeting will be on Thursday, February 18th at 7:30 p.m. here at the Chicago Public Safety headquarters. At this time I
ask for a motion to close a series of executive
sessions for the purposes of considering personnel
matters and litigation as authorized by Sections 2C
1, 3, 4, and 11 of the Illinois Open Meetings Act.
Is there such a motion?

   MS. BALLATE: So moved.
   MR. FOREMAN: Second.
   MS. LIGHTFOOT: All those in favor?
(Chorus of ayes.) Any opposed? Motion passes.

The schedule of the Board's regularly
monthly public meetings for 2016 is in the blue
books made available at tonight's meeting and will
be posted on the Board's website. A report of
disciplinary actions taken by the Board during
previous month has been made available at this
evening's meeting. This report and the Board's
written Findings and Decisions are posted on the
Board's website. There are no disciplinary actions
on the agenda for this evening's meeting.

   Pursuant to Rule 52, the Superintendent
has requested the Board's permission to solicit
funds from sponsors for the Annual Police
Recognition Ceremony and Luncheon to be held in
May 2016. Is there a motion to approve the
Superintendent's request, conditional upon an accounting of all funds received and expended being provided to the Police Board following the conclusion of this event?

   MS. BALLATE: So moved.

   MR. FOREMAN: Second.

   MS. LIGHTFOOT: All in favor?

   (chorus of ayes). Any opposed? Motion passes.

   Now, we have tried to go through our business portion of our meeting as quickly as possible so that we can provide as much time as possible for public comments. As you know, our normal procedure is we ask folks to sign up in advance to speak, and we will call all of those who have signed up in advance to speak tonight.

   In addition, we have also afforded folks an opportunity to sign up here tonight. Our focus is on the superintendent search, and we invite people to talk to us about two particular questions in particular. The first is, what attributes would you like to see in the next superintendent, and secondly, what are the specific policy priorities that you would like the superintendent to see?

   Before I go into more detail about that,
I would like to give you an update on where we are in the process of that. For those of you who are not familiar with our process and do not come every week, we thought it would be helpful to allow the members of the Police Board to briefly introduce themselves. I'm going to introduce Dr. Carol Adams who is going to function as our moderator tonight, and then we will take care of one other order of business.

So let me start with -- I'll start. My name is Lori Lightfoot. I'm a lawyer by training. I work at a law firm here in Chicago by the name of Mayer Brown. I'm president of the Chicago Police Board. Sorry for the large podium. Why don't I stand for a second? As I indicated, I started as president of the Police Board. I think my first official meeting was August of this year. I have a lot of experience in and around policing issues from my time as a federal prosecutor. I was also, years ago, chief administrator of The Office Of Professional Standards. We believe that these meetings serve a very valuable purpose both for you and for us. For us, it's an opportunity to -- for us to hear from you about a range of issues. Again,
those of you, and many of you I recognize from prior meetings, know that we -- you come and we listen to the things that you have to say. I will have more specifics about that with respect to this superintendent search.

We believe this is a very opportune time for us to hear from you for us to provide you the information about not only the disciplinary cases that we have handled at any given time, but in particular now for us to let you know where we are, what your thoughts are regarding -- I think one of the most important public policy decisions in short term is the selection of the next superintendent.

I will stop there and defer to my vice president, Ghian Foreman.

MR. FOREMAN: Hello, I'm Ghian Foreman. I'm the vice president of the Police Board. I have been on the Board for about six years now. I'm the executive director of Greater Southwest Community Development on the southwest side of the city. I work in Chicago Lawn, Englewood, West Englewood.

MS. BALLATE: Good evening, my name is Melissa Ballate. I've been on the Board since June 2010, a lifelong Chicago resident, and I have a granting
business. Thank you for being here.

MR. CONLON: My name is Bill Conlon. I'm a lawyer. I work at the firm of Sidley & Austin and I have been on the Board for a little more than four years. Many of you I recognize having been here before. Thank you for having come before and thank you for coming tonight. Your comments have been very helpful to us in understanding what is going on. Secondly, Lori also mentioned, we like to hear from you about attributes that you would like to see in a new superintendent as we move ahead in doing our part in that search. So thank you for being here.

MS. FRY: Good evening. My name is Rita Fry. I'm the retired Cook County Public Defender. I have been on the Police Board for five years.

MR. SIMPSON: Good evening. Thank you for coming. I'm John Simpson. I started life as a police officer in Los Angeles. I'm a lawyer by training and serve on a certain number of community boards here in Chicago. The only thing I would say is, the time we are allotted to speak is two minutes each. I have always found in life the best thoughts I have are right after I finish speaking, right
after I walk out the door and I don't get a chance to say them.

We very strongly encourage you to submit written comments, to send emails to the Police Board's website. Any thoughts you have are welcome so it's not just limited to this community meeting but we completely welcome any thoughts you have about our superintendent search or any other matters, and they can be submitted through our website on email or in any other fashion you deem appropriate. Thank you for being here.

MS. SWEENEY: Good evening, I'm Rhoda Sweeney. I'm a retired judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County. In my career I have served as a supervisor in narcotics forfeitures. I have also served as an appointed defender in the federal court system. I volunteer once a week at the Haymarket Drug Recovery Center, and I'm on the County Justice Advisory Board. I have seen a lot in the communities and courtrooms, and I'm anxious to hear you. Thank you for attending.

MS. VALENZUELA: Hi, I'm Claudia Valenzuela. I'm a lawyer with the National Urban Justice Center. I basically focus my tenure at the National Urban
Justice Center working with men and women facing deportation or in the Department Of Homeland Security custody, many of them on the basis of encounters with the criminal justice system or on the basis of criminal offenses. I'm really interested in hearing what you all have to say, and hope to be responsive in my role as to what it is you all bring forth today.

MS. LIGHTFOOT: One last housekeeping matter. Is there a motion to authorize the President of the Board to take appropriate administrative action including the negotiation and entry into contracts for purposes of allowing the Police Board to discharge its duties under Section 2-84-030(1) of the City of Chicago Municipal Code?

MS. FRY: So moved.

MR. FOREMAN: Second.

MS. LIGHTFOOT: All in favor?

(Chorus of ayes.) Any opposed? Motion passes.

Let me talk to you a little bit about the format we're going to use tonight. Many of you already signed up ahead of time. We have also encouraged other folks who come tonight to step up. Dr. Carol Adams will kind of moderate the discussion
tonight. We're going to try to get as many people involved in the discussion as possible, and let me give you -- before I pass the baton, if you will, to Dr. Adams, let me give you a little bit of update on where we are in the superintendent search.

As many of you know, we opened the application process on December 10th with a detailed application, and the deadline for submission of the application for people that were interested in applying for the superintendent job was last Friday, January 15th.

By the close of business on Friday, we had received 39 applications from folks who are interested in applying for the superintendent job. We really received a variety and diversity of applicants, both people who are current members of the Chicago Police Department, folks who had previous experience with the Chicago Police Department, as well as a number of people from across the country. And their experiences vary from folks who had experience in local law enforcement, the military, some lawyers. We have even had somebody as far away as Canada.

So we're very encouraged by the
diversity, the depth of experience, and frankly, the seriousness with which the applicants took our application process. As you may recall, the application itself, aside from listing the attributes and requesting the usual things you request, included eight separate essay questions that we called upon each applicant to complete. And I highlight that for you because if you look at the range of questions that were covered in the essay questions, they really reflect information that you all have provided us, really going back, at least as long as my tenure, if not before; and people outside of this room expressing their concern, their anger, and frustration over a lot of different things related to different aspects of the Chicago Police Department.

I want you to be clear that we have heard you. We have heard you, not only in the things that you said, and I'll call it constructive criticism about the police department and your experiences, but we have heard you in the kind of things you believe are important for the applicants to have and the priorities and the policies. And tonight gives us another opportunity to -- for you to educate us
about the things that are top of the line and of
most concern to you. And just to complete the
process, we now have the applications. The Board is
going to convene and decide which applicants we are
going to bring back for interviews. That process is
probably at least a couple weeks away, so your input
still matters to us and is timely. And then, once
we bring the applicants in for interviews, we will
convene shortly thereafter and whittle the list
down.

Now by ordinance, we are authorized to
provide the mayor with a list of recommendations up
to three people. We don't know, as we sit here
today, if the number will be three or will be
something less than three. But we're engaged in
that process now and we really do want to hear from
you tonight.

As my colleague John Simpson said, if you
think about something later, there is lots of other
ways in which you can interact with us. If you
frankly do not want to get up and state your peace
in front of this large audience, again, call us,
email us, send us a letter, pull us to the side
afterwards, but we do want to hear from you. I'll
stop there and turn it over to Carol Adams.

MODERATOR ADAMS: Good evening, friends and colleagues and people who are interested in getting it right. My name is Carol Adams. I'm the moderator for the evening, something I had to think long and hard about before agreeing to do. Because as a veteran of scores of public hearings, I know how things can get when passions are high and when the cause is just. So again, I had to think about it. But in the wake of our recent observances of Dr. Martin Luther King, one of his favorite quotes of mine that spurred my decision, where he said the ultimate measure of a man or woman is not where she stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where she stands at times of challenge and controversy. And this is such a time.

So I come tonight to stand in that gap, to seek with you some ground upon which to stand and deliver a platform forum that we need to have if we are to change the tenure and reality of police community relations in this city and in our country.

Reminiscing about King also made me to remember his hopes for Chicago expressed in Grant Park in 1966, where he said Chicago is a city of
both tremendous shame and shining glory, and we are
here to issue a call to conscious that Chicago might
foresake her shame and rise to the challenges of our
age and creatively pursue the path of glory.
They've come here tonight to help to fix Chicago, to
right the wrongs for which our city has become the
poster child, not just to save our city but to save
our children, ourselves, and our humanity.

I applaud everyone who has come tonight
to speak your peace in defiance of those who say it
will not mean anything. For I'm convinced that if
you are not at the table, you're certainly on the
menu, and we mean not just to speak but to be heard.
Our community is not crying out for more policing or
for better policing. We are looking for service and
protection from racism and repression. We insist on
higher standards of accountability from the top down
and that includes boards such as this.

History is being made here because in its
long history, this is the first time the Board has
invited live real time input from the community when
it came to superintendent selection. So tonight is
about accountability. We expect that things will be
different because the community has had genuine
input into the process. We expect you who sit here
to represent us and not the status quo. We believe
that working together, we can remove the barriers to
Chicago being our promised land once again, and in
the social injustices that abound here. We look
forward to your reporting back to us on your
progress towards that end.

But the expectation and accountability
extend to us, the community, as well. We must seize
this opportunity not for oratory but to make
specific recommendations on the kind of person we
want the superintendent and the priorities that must
be on his or her agenda.

Again, we know the answers do not lie in
more policing, whether they require different
policing. We know that the person who occupies this
office must set the tone and change the culture. We
know that the code of silence exists from the street
to the precinct and even in our own homes and this
must stop. So tonight we speak out, respectfully,
because we are part of the solution. We are here to
elevate because our opinions and our lives matter.

Each speaker has two minutes, 120 very
precious seconds so be respectful of each speaker
and let them have their say. When it's your turn to speak, stick to your time limit so we can get in as many people as possible. Approximately 30 people have signed up so far. We have a hard stop at 9:00 p.m. so we will try to get to as many people as possible. I'm going to take first the people who signed in through calling or online, and then we will take the people who signed up tonight. I'll call about five names to speak so come up and be ready. Sandra Coe, Dan Fein, Todd St. Hill, Jeanette Cummings, Monica James.

MS. COE: I actually made some copies for you guys. I want you guys to --

MS. LIGHTFOOT: Please tell us your name.

MS. COE: My name is Sandra Coe. I'm here today because my son was murdered on July 16, 2011. He was my only child, and he was two weeks short of leaving for college. My son was labelled by Commissioner Hammer -- I had a business in Hyde Park on 53rd and Harper at the time, and on the front page -- he was murdered that Saturday, and on the front page the next time the paper came out, it said that my son was a gang banger and he was very active in the gang. He had no information to back that
statement that he made. So I called my pastor, Smith on 38th and Indiana. We had a meeting with him and Sergeant Ford. In the meeting he said he said those things to calm the community, but it was at my son's expense.

Now it has been four and a half years since my baby was murdered. They never investigated his case. So it's still open. I had to go to court, and the judge actually said that my son did nothing to contribute to his death, and he referred me to Lisa Madigan's office. So my question today, is -- I actually spoke to the guy at the end at Father Pfleger's one day. I think you was still the chief of detectives then. The guy that did investigate the case, he did call me up finally. They don't communicate with us as mothers. If you call them, it's like we're irritating them, like what do you want, I don't have any more information, or they never call you back.

So by me giving them information to the superintendent, he did call me back, but that's been like two years. So I just want my baby's case investigated because he wasn't a bad boy. If he was, I mean, it doesn't devalue his life but he was
a decent kid. He did not deserve that.

MS. LIGHTFOOT: Interim Superintendent Escalante, if you want to respond?

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT ESCALANTE: I remember the case, and we did ask the detectives to follow up, so I'll make sure they contact you, and I'll get an update as to the status of the investigation.

MODERATOR ADAMS: Dan Fein.

MR. ST. HILL: In 2012 the year Rekia Boyd was murdered by Dante Servin, there was on average one police shooting per week. Her family has been fighting for justice in mourning ever since. Between 2010 and 2014 CPD was ranked fourth in the country for killing people, and yet the CPD has gotten better and more funding than more than our public schools. The prisons have better funding than our mental health clinics. The city would rather pay over 521 million dollars for a decade of police misconduct and defend corrupt violence, murdering cops like Dante Servin, and force poor working people to show up in front of bodies of former corrupt law enforcement and prosecutors to get accountability.

Instead, the city should fire Dante
Servin and cops like him, cut the CPD's budget and invest in working and poor families, many of those breadwinners Black women. 38 percent of those Black women working low wage jobs to pay for rising rent and childcare costs. Our time and our tax dollars need to go into our communities and not into defending killer cops like Dante Servin.

MODERATOR ADAMS: I'm sorry, Dan Fein was not here. Jeanette Cummings.

MS. CUMMINGS: Those of the prior speakers made the point by illustration of what I think I would like to see the police make a priority. And that is, I think it is extremely important that the superintendent that we choose and that the policies that we work with are policies that invest a tremendous amount of -- in the idea of making sure that the police work with the community in a very active way. Ms. Lightfoot has recently spoken of the fact that the problems of violence are problems that go way back into, not just what police have or have not done but what the disinvestment in our whole community that has gone down that, as we know the schools, the -- all of the things that have been shown to be -- the level of unemployment, the level
of the poverty, the kinds of things that actually make it so explosive in our city.

So what I'm saying is that we have examples of police in other jurisdictions, and once upon a time police here, who actually went out and established ways in which they interacted with the community and where they actually were assigned to actually have baseball teams. In Robert Taylor Homes there was a period of time when the police actually helped to educate on computers, when the police were looked upon as friends. I believe that that has to be one of the things that we do again in order to interact with people as if they are people and not, as the first speaker, said gang bangers.

We are people who have 90 percent unemployment rate who have schools that are crumbling who need mentors. I believe that we should have a police force that actually apportions a great deal of its time into interacting with the community in that fashion. Therefore, I would say it is imperative that you choose a superintendent who is, above all, a proven demonstrated community man or woman.

MS. LIGHTFOOT: Thank you.
MS. ADAMS: Monica James.

MS. JAMES: Good evening to the community that I serve and respect and utmost highly love. Last month we requested that you all step down. This month we're coming to you with a different demand from our proposal of demands. We're asking that take the time, take the initiative. If you don't want to accept the accountability in a public fashion, take the initiative to accept the accountability to say that these people deserve their dignity. If I can't grant these people any other thing in my professional duties to uphold and respect the laws, then grant these people behind me their basic human needs and rights. Take the initiative to ask these people, the people who have suffered the loss of their beloved ones, shattered, shot dead, mowed down, however you categorize it, but take the initiative to gather these people, the immediate people in one space, in one circle, at one time and listen to them.

Put your bonfires together. Bring out your fine wines. Bring out your therapeutic settings, and listen to the stories that these people have to offer you to make you a better
professional human being.

We don't deny that you're great persons, but what we are denying is that your professional person is not meeting the professional needs that we look forward to as human beings under the same common law. Look Lori Lightfoot, do not put your hands over your eyes and shake your head unless that is a deep sign of remorse. Otherwise keep it cute. These people are suffering. If you don't want to listen to the activists --

MS. LIGHTFOOT: Time is up.

MS. JAMES: Yes, my time is up. If you do not want to listen to the activists and the voices of the community, listen to the families who are individually impacted by the experience and the work ethics of the people that you have government over.

MS. LIGHTFOOT: Your time is up please.

MODERATOR ADAMS: Thank you.

MS. NEEDHAM: Good evening, I am coming here on behalf of my sister, Sandra Bland, Rekia Boyd, Betty Jones, Brian Johnson, LaQuan McDonald, Cedrick Chapman, and Quintonio LaGrier. I want to take this time to read to you a part of your mission that you have. And it simply says, "IPRA is charged with the
mission of maintaining the highest level of integrity while conducting objective, thorough investigations striving to reach a sound and just conclusion." As I continue with what I'm saying I want you guys to think if you guys are complying with what your mission is. Police brutality, police misconduct is at an all time high. It's getting absolutely out of control. And police custody deaths, Sandra Bland, Texas; Kendra Chapman, Alabama; Joyce Carnell, South Carolina; Wakina Jones, Ohio; Alexis McGovern, Missouri; Roneta Turner, New York, The last one, 16 year old Gina McMillan, Kentucky, all of these women were found unresponsive while in police custody. Everyone with the exception of Gina happened within a month's time. Now tell me something is not wrong there? All of these deaths are occurring, and no one is doing anything about it. What is your purpose? What purpose do you serve, each one of you that is sitting in those chairs. Could you think back for a minute if it were your daughter, your son, your mother, how would you feel? Would you not want people to advocate on their behalf? Would you not want people to ask questions, what happened to
my loved one? What's going on? What are you all
going to do about this?

Clearly, it's a systemic issue. I
believe that rules, protocol, procedures, department
heads, et cetera, must be completely dismantled in
order to fix this systemic issue. Tuesday I heard
Black lives matter co-founder Patrice say something
that was very powerful, and I want to leave you guys
with this. Hold on. Why should taxpayers continue
to pay dollars to those executioners who does not
value human life? Tell me why is Dante Servin still
on the roster? Tell me why is George Hernandez
still on the roster? Tell me why is Robert Realmo
still on the roster?

MS. LIGHTFOOT: You time is up.

MS. NEEDHAM: I heard you, but guess what?
There is no amount of time that you can put on a
family's grief and pain. So I think you guys should
allow a little bit more time than two minutes. But
I'm going to leave you with this. What will you
guys do to ensure that Black Lives matter and save
us?

MS. LIGHTFOOT: Thank you.

MODERATOR ADAMS: Calvin Hardwick. If you see
seats take seats, if you would. In the absence of Calvin, Latoya, Latisha, and Latanya Jones.

MS. JONES: Hi, everybody. My name is Latoya Jones. This is my sister Latasha Jones. I'm speaking on behalf of Latisha and Latanya Jones and Anthony Jones. We are the children of Betty Jones who got murdered the day after Christmas by the police. She was doing her -- she was doing her civic duty of helping the police and got mauled down like a dog. Thank you. My mom did not deserve to die that way. What is ya'll going to do about the situation? Too many people are dying for the senseless conduct of ya'll cops, Chicago police around the world. This nonsense needs to stop, like seriously.

Too many people is dying. We grieving and everybody grieving. This is -- ya'll have to do something about this. Like, Jesus. When are you going to do -- when -- what are you guys going to do with -- about your police just shooting without asking questions and still on the payroll while we grieving, struggling, trying to pay for burials and funerals and plots and stuff. What's really going on?
We got -- we don't the -- we the ones who
got to wake up every day crying because we're
missing our mom. Grandkids missing their grandma.
She's not going to see them grow up to be anything.
She's gone now. We have to deal with this pain.
Ya'll still got your mom, some of you. I won't say
everybody, but some of you still have your mom. We
don't have our mom. That is all we had was our mom.
She was our everything. Now she is gone. We got to
live this pain. We lost our mom to gun violence.
She didn't die of natural causes. She got up and
was shot by a cop.

MS. LIGHTFOOT: Thank you. We have a lot of
people who would like to speak tonight. We have a
lot of people who are gathered here. Folks that are
coming down and standing in front of folks, that is
not going to be acceptable. You have to take your
seats. Let the people who are here see and hear,
but you have to take your seats. And we can't have
people coming in front of the front row. That will
be the rule. If you don't like it, you can leave.
We will not have people walking all around, standing
up. You have to take your seats and be respectful
of the other people. Thank you.
MR. ROGERS: If I could add a comment to your last speaker? I'm Larry Rogers Jr. I represent the Jones family. Since your last meeting of December 9th, on December 26th they lost their mother, the day after Christmas, in a hail of bullets fired from a police officer who was several feet, as much as 20 feet away from the door of the house, indiscriminately firing through walls, through doorways when he knew there were innocent people in the house.

And if that happened in another neighborhood, it would be called a drive-by shooting, but it happened at the hands of the Chicago Police Department. Your issue here is what do we expect in your selection of a new superintendent and what policies do we need to be implemented? First of all, you need a superintendent who not only is familiar with and knows the community but loves the community and feels that they are part of the community.

Secondly and most importantly, as a lawyer who handles these cases, one of the most unnerving things we see is not just the shooter but everybody around the shooter covering for them. The
coverup often times is much worse than the act
because you have officers who are lying in reports,
who are covering up for officers that they should be
pointing at as the type of officer they do not want
to serve with.

So I implore you, when you select a new
superintendent, require that he relay to the rank
and file that it will not be tolerated when they
defend corrupt criminal officers, and they will
point at them because they do not represent the type
of police department that the city of Chicago
deserves.

MS. LIGHTFOOT: Mr. Rogers, I want to let you
know and other folks know, with respect to your last
point, if you look at the application for
superintendent, specifically the essay questions,
one of the very things that we ask the next
superintendent to expound upon, and we will be
following up with them in interviews, is the very
question of how can you incentivize officers not
only to have integrity for themselves but to make
sure that they are doing everything they can to
identify their peers, their colleagues, and so forth
on the same issues? So we have heard that and we
are very much focused on that issue.

MR. ROGERS: The problem is, it should be a moral obligation. Secondly, we should not have to incentize honesty and truth. It should not -- it shouldn't have to be incentivized. They -- and the reason I would suggest that you see officers covering for one another is because there is no accountability when they don't. If they're held accountable, meaning in the case of LaQuan McDonald, every officer who prepared a false report defending what was contradicted by videotape should be charged, absolutely everyone.

Once that starts to happen, they will fear lying. They will fear covering things up and you all will see a change, I suggest.

MS. LIGHTFOOT: Thank you.

MODERATOR ADAMS: Calling Robert McKay, John Hawkins, Rachel Williams, Zakiyyah Muhammad.

MS. WILLIAMS: So you guys know me well enough. There is no point in introductions. Question, why, if you not been confirmed by City Council, are you actually taking a seat? If I'm not confirmed to work, I ain't working. So I'm trying to figure that out. So when is that confirmation
going to happen?

MS. FAIRLEY: I was confirmed.

MS. WILLIAMS: You were, great. Also, I want to ask this question. If it's in the FOP contract that 30 days upon termination, why haven't any of you guys used it? So a police officer that commits a crime, including killing two people, why haven't it been used out of their contract? Since we all want to be all about unions, and specifically about the FOP instead of CTU, instead of Fight For 15, so let's be real about this right now.

Question, how can you work with immigration, but you are sitting on the police review board that also helps ICE do deportations? I have a real big question that needs to be answered that none of you seem to do that well. So when we talk about accountability and you talk about the police department, we don't need no new cops. We don't need no good ones because there ain't no good once. Because there is no reason when Betty Jones and Quintonio LaGrier's bodies were taken to the morgue, that it took hours for them to find out it was actually a police-involved shooting. Because if it had not been, they would have labeled it a gang
shooting and kept it moving.

So when we talk about accountability, have accountability for your officers. Why are you justifying and sitting up there saying what you will do as police chief? You should know what the heck you're doing if I'm paying you. We -- I should -- we shouldn't even have to be having this conversation. This is -- time and time again you say you will have statements for Dante Servin. It will be four years in March. Why is he still on my payroll and why am I still paying for him?

MS. LIGHTFOOT: I believe we informed you at our December meeting that the case of Dante Servin has now come before the Police Board. The initial status hearing has been held and shortly the evidentiary hearing will be set. If you want to follow the progress of the case, the information will be on the Police Board's website.

MS. WILLIAMS: Also it takes you --

MS. LIGHTFOOT: Your time is up.

MS. WILLIAMS: It takes them about six weeks after to actually lock up a Black man, but it takes you four years to lock up Dante Servin. Let's keep it moving.
MODERATOR ADAMS: Can we please hear Sister Muhammad?

MS. MUHAMMAD: Good evening everybody, especially Lori Lightfoot because I was at the Police Board meeting at Kennedy King when we all gathered there and we asked questions. So you more than anybody else up here you know that we trust none of you. We have no confidence in you all at all. We know nothing that you have ever done on behalf of our community, although I do know that you stood up and represented the city of Chicago and argued why Black people did not need reparations.

But just to get to my point, I think that we need to get on with the business of finding out if your Board is going to sit with the U.S. Attorney General's people and critique the contract for the Fraternal Order of Police because that's where the problem is. The language in that contract, the language that needs to be taken away and the language that needs to be implemented. But the U.S. Attorney General, since those people are here and you all say you are working with them, open up that contract because that contract protects killer police, abusive police.
They working, they -- if I kill anybody
up here, anybody up here, I go straight to jail, but
the police kill and they go home to their families,
make love to their wife. Their life never stops
when they kill a Black man or Black woman or their
paycheck. So we want that contract critiqued. Tear
it up and make a new one. That is all I got to say.
And I want to know if that's going to happen, if
your Board is going to sit with you and the U.S.
Attorney General concerning the contract of the
Fraternal Police.

MS. LIGHTFOOT: The task force on police
accountability is specifically looking at the
collective bargaining agreement, the statutes, the
ordinances, all the legal infrastructures that
pertains to police accountability. So that is
something that is under review right now.

MS. MUHAMMAD: The whole contract you're saying?

MS. LIGHTFOOT: All of it.

MS. MUHAMMAD: The Fraternal Order Of Police
contract?

MS. LIGHTFOOT: What I'm saying, there is
multiple collective bargaining issues. All of them
are being looked at.

MS. MUHAMMAD: Will our lawyer, our legal
people? We need somebody there that we trust. Can
our legal people be present when you do that?

MS. LIGHTFOOT: We will contact you with
your --

(shouting.)

MODERATOR ADAMS: Excuse me, could we please
have a little order so we can hear the speakers?

Christa Noel, Martinez Sutton, Queen Sister and
Robert More.

MS. NOEL: Good evening everyone. I'm really
hot, angry, mad, all those things. I call this the
making of a militant, right? I'm ready to go out
and get my black turtleneck sweater, my black
leather jacket, my black beret and get a gun, and it
ain't going to be about cop watch. It's going to be
cop patrol. Really, seriously. Think about it.
Think about it. If I had shot and killed -- for
killing Betty, you wouldn't have been able to put me
in jail. You wouldn't have been able to put me in
jail because I would have been defending Betty's
life. I would have been defending Quintonio. Yeah,
it's cop patrol.
If I had shot Van Dyke, you wouldn't have been able to put me in jail because I would have been defending him. Ya'll have to understand, it's too much. It's too much. 16 shots. Seven. Seven? You got to shoot a 19 year old seven times? Really? What is up? Do we need to give you revolvers so you have to pull the trigger? I don't understand. I don't understand. But you're making militants and when -- I will have my open carry and march around this here, right here, right? I'll march around 35th and Michigan with an open carry weapon in my back.

UNKNOWN MAN: They will gun you down.

MS. NOEL: Understand what is happening in the community.

UNKNOWN WOMAN: They don't care.

MS. NOEL: I know they don't care, but this is what is happening. And it's not just ripping at the families, okay? It's not just ripping at the families. This boy, Realmo, a boy, okay? Three years on the force. Came from the Marines. The Marines? What did he go to Iraq or something? Did he learn how to shoot like that in Iraq?

MODERATOR ADAMS: Two minutes please.
MS. NOEL: Okay. I'm going to say one more thing. It has to stop. It has to stop. It has to stop. You're lighting Chicago on fire. The day after Christmas I was happy. The police superintendent, gone. Chief of IPRA, gone. DOJ investigation, gone. Van Dyke, first-degree murder. And it didn't stop this boy from shooting two people. It didn't stop him. C'mon, what do you all want? Stop it, stop it, stop it, stop it.

MS. LIGHTFOOT: Thank you.

QUEEN SISTER: Blessings. My name is Queen Sister. I represent the It Takes A Village Organization. Allow me to say we started with Blacks under attack, Negroes will be executed in the streets as Operation Pull The Trigger, Kill a Nigger continues. The headlines read that two were fatally shot, one accidentally and one not. It's clear what your intention is towards the young Black man in the city. I mean, it's not suicide, it's genocide nationwide. Let's be clear. I want to say that the Cook County Sheriffs, superintendent is a consecutive piece. It's his or her duty as peacemaker in the county in which they live to prevent the crimes and maintain safety and order.
among the citizens. You all is preventing them from
doing their job in protecting us as citizens. For
you all that is over this selection of
superintendent, I want to know that, Negrophobia,
stay it please -- Negrophobia -- is real. And we
would like for the Chicago police to have a
Negrophobia evaluation. Negrophobia is a fear of
Black or Negro people worldwide. It can be
influenced by various things such as traumatic
events or circumstances, but typically a
manifestation of racism and bigotry.

I presented to you last month a
Neighborhood Safe Passage -- I'm the creator of Safe
Passage that everybody is taking credit for. I
presented to you a private Safe Neighborhood
regarding the child protection safety mechanism in
my community, and I called you -- I thought you
would be sensitive enough to contact me to say let's
work together to do what needs to be done because I
have the solution and it's clear that you all do
not.

I'll wrap it up. You and Rahm Emanuel
stood in front of television for 20 minutes talking
about the public and safety issues with tasers. Not
once did you mention Dominique Ferguson, the
21-year-old pregnant Black female whose body was
stuffed in the red suitcase in the Roseland
community. We have dead Black women and another
cover up. The Roseland community is Chicago's
crime field. We will be providing testimony
before the United Nations who will be here on the
24th and 25th at Chicago State University. It is to
them that I will present the algorithm, the village
panacea, so that we can initiate our healing because
we know this SOS is not a test and we must save
ourselves after that.

MS. LIGHTFOOT: Your time is up.

QUEEN SISTER: We will present it to you.

Thank you.

MODERATOR ADAMS: I think we will be able to
get to everybody. Try to stick to your two minutes.

Mr. Sutton.

MR. SUTTON: Well, ya'll know why I'm here.

It's been four years. First of all, I wish I could
say Happy New Year, but truth of the matter is,
ain't nothing been happy since my sister been gone.

UNKNOWN WOMAN: Since the police killed her.

MR. SUTTON: I don't know what is taking so
long to investigate somebody that said he meant to
kill a motherfucker that night.

MS. LIGHTFOOT: Mr. Sutton.

MR. SUTTON: I don't disrespect my elders, but
right now I truly believe my elders understand me.
It's right here straight from the heart. It's
already hard being a Black man out here. Just being
a Black man is hard trying to keep your sanity.
This dude took my baby sister, how do ya'll think I
feel right now? Anger? I'm way past pain right
now. Just to walk out the door every day -- as a
matter of fact, to look at my mother in her eyes and
to see her pain. As a Black man, do you know what
that do to me? But then when I lose my mind, that's
when motherfuckers want to care and speak out and
say oh, he is another Black man that lost his mind.

You didn't offer no mental health, guest
services. None of ya'll. Ain't nobody come at me
and say hear go a doctor, here go a therapist.
Growing up in the hood you see it every day. When
it happens to yours, oh, you really feel it. Why
have the superintendent search? None of that, it
ain't going to work because none of ya'll, you don't
give a damn because you're not part of the inner
city experience.

    How can you take care of what you don't understand? And then at the same time you ain't trying to understand, because just -- you already showing prejudice against me. Just walking outside, I bet you, a couple folks probably already called me a nigger. I'll take that.

    MS. LIGHTFOOT: Your time is up.

    MR. SUTTON: I know my time is up, but just to make this clear, and first of all, I hate to welcome my sisters and my other family to this club, the most fucked up club that I ever been part of. All I'm asking for is a little bit of justice for myself. I'm not the only one that's hurt out here. You see my family behind me? Everybody hurt out here and nobody doing nothing. What are you investigating?

    MS. LIGHTFOOT: Your time is up.

    MR. SUTTON: This officers on dash cam, he moved his vehicle from one side of the street to another. Just don't touch me. Do not touch me.

    UNKNOWN MAN: You're going to understand where we are coming from.

    THE CROWD: Do not touch him. Do not touch
him. Do not touch him.

MR. SUTTON: I am tired of coming up here every month. Every month you're seeing me. Send my family a doctor. Send my sisters out here a doctor. I am Rekia Boyd.

MR. MORE: It is the 21st of January, 2016. At this point martial law has not been imposed. Salute goes out to all the people throughout this country who have been — whose contributions have kept things in the position here that as bad as things are now, it's not been compared to what life will be like if martial law is imposed. And United Nations agenda is a living hell on Earth. I also want to recognize — it is totally unfair to broadbrush all the people on that side of this line or all the police officers. Every human being is an individual human being. I feel Mr. Sutton's pain, that's real. And what I'm hoping I can contribute from my tiny little mike is finding a solution out of this so that the arrangements will be in place in future for any type of thing will even transpire. The Defense Authorization Act, Section 1021, the deprivation, the right to — the right to a jury trial that is — legitimate common law jury trial,
jury nullification, so many other protections that are being denied. I'm also going to recognize that tomorrow is the 43rd anniversary of an abomination known as Roe versus Wade which has resulted in such a diminution and attack on the rules of law and diminution of the sanctity of human life and respect for the sanctity of human life.

Some guy thinking he has to fire 16 shots when none of his associates find it necessary to fire a single shot. That is just a demonstration of a darkness of minds and hardness of hearts that cannot be tolerated.

Before I get on to the next issue, I have to ask the question of Ms. Lightfoot. You said in the past that the Spencer murder, he spares the oath and punishes the man. We still have these murderers that --

MS. LIGHTFOOT: Your time is winding up.

MR. MORE: Okay. My question is, you said last meeting that when I asked the superintendent what the theater is in which members of the public can question these superintendents of Chicago Police Department, what is that theater that is --

MS. LIGHTFOOT: Your time is up.
MR. MORE: Okay, thank you.

MS. HAWKINS: Hi. Okay, I get inspiration from this man (indicating picture). Years ago, he had a march because things was not going on right. He came from Birmingham Alabama -- Montgomery, Alabama to Marquette Park in Chicago. They threw rocks at him. They stabbed him and everything. So my question is -- so my thinking is that when we were born, there was a constitution that was established for us for laws to be abided by and enforced by the systems of executive, judicial, legislative branches. Nothing has happened. Nothing is happening.

When we call the police -- well, on my birth certificate they had Negro but I'm a human being. The only thing different in all of us is we have different parents. That is the only thing. And so they drive by and shoot, they hunt like that. Now when the police was called, an elder lady in her house was shot up, no questions asked, and she shouldn't be dead now.

So my question is, my real concern is, if I'm not mistaken, that alderman who wants now -- now, they supposed to be making solutions. He wants
to have tasers. Murder is not the solution nor no problem. Do you think so? So now, I had to bring this because no tasers. It's putting salt on the wounds, and then it's like adding insult to injury. And I will -- when the police came, well if it was an accident, everyone in the jail should be out. So I want them to stop. Please no tasers. Tasers kill. God says thou shalt not kill, the book that Rahm Emanuel put his hand on.

MODERATOR ADAMS: Thank you Ms. Hawkins.

MS. HAWKINS: Will you make them be accountable for when they call for help and they shoot you dead? Are you going to do something or just always still go home that same day? They should go to court too. I didn't hear anything.

MS. KRIG: Hello, name is Holly Krig. I'm from an organization called Moms United Against Violence. I guess I want to know, given that people are looking for profound systemic change, I want to raise three questions regarding this new superintendent. First, under the new superintendent, who will serve and protect Black and Indigenous people from the expansive and aggressive threats of police against any perceived or projected
threat?

And of course I'm thinking of Rekia Boyd, and of course I'm thinking of Ronnie Holmes, and of Betty Jones, and I'm thinking of so many other names we know and we should remember and never forget.

Number two, who will serve and protect Black and Indigenous women and youth and especially Black Trans who are arrested and criminalized for self defense, even when it's clear they would be dead or greatly harmed had they not taken action or who are living under the constant threat of both, given that when they seek help from police they are often criminalized or otherwise harmed? And I'm thinking of TaWanda Marks who was sexually assaulted by police officers when she called for help in a domestic violence situation then she was criminalized for it. Who offered no resistance, just the opening of a door like Betty Jones.

Finally, what will a new superintendent conclude from the fact that victims families and advocates from Black youth have been coming to the meetings for months or years. They will not go away. We are not going away, and that at a minimum you must fire Servin and Hernandez, and all the
police who have stolen lives.

On a personal note, I hope you will realize that because of them, because of these folks, because of people like Dorothy Holmes and BYP, all these amazing organizations, all these brave youth, that fewer and fewer people who look like me are going to come out to defend and give cover to people like you. Thank you.

MR. BOWERS: Good evening. My name is Leroy Bowers. Thank you Madam President, Mr. Vice President, and the Board members who are giving me this opportunity to speak. I have to pass out -- I would like to give the members, and I would like to start off by saying that we need change immediately, and accountability and transparency. We need a superintendent that can really actually bring that to Chicago, to our communities, to the police department and our elected officials. I'm presenting and promoting Andre Kellum, a special agent in charge of the Washington division, DEA. Andre has served for many many years with the U.S. Department Of Justice. He has the knowledge and understanding of what will work for the community at large, the police department, and the
mayor, for our elected officials.

He brings a special spirit and faith that we all need so desperately. With Andre Kellum, his experience with the U.S. Department Of Justice, DEA, he will bring a plethora of resources with him, which again, is so desperately needed throughout the police department and our community. I don't know anybody around Chicago or the nation that can bring the knowledge, the spirit, the change, and the integrity needed to do the job necessary.

Andre Kellum can and will address and resolve the important challenges facing the police department. Finally, this is our best choice for superintendent of the Chicago Police Department and it is coming from the community and the community leaders. Thank you.

MODERATOR ADAMS: T.C. McCoy.

MR. McCOY: Good evening, Board. I would like to make a comment. I did 28 and a half years for the Chicago Police Department. I love being police. I really do. I wouldn't have stayed 28 years here. On the 27th of December, I was watching tv. The lady got killed over there in the 14th District. The authority was the officer shot her by accident.
And I just want to come and say this to the Board, when he unsnapped his gun, was that an accident or on purpose? When he pulled his gun out of his holster, was that an accident or on purpose?

THE CROWD: On purpose.

MR. McCoy: When he fired his gun, was that an accident or on purpose? And as a result of him firing a gun, was that an accident or on purpose?

Thank you very much.

MODERATOR ADAMS: Ms. Ortiz.

MS. ORTIZ: It’s clear that Jason Van Dyke is benefitting from biased based policing, and it is a fact that my community of Pilsen, the 24th Ward and numerous of our Brown and Black communities are in civil unrest, disappointment, and enraged at this fact that our tax dollars go towards paying people like Jason Van Dyke a paid leave after murdering LaQuan McDonald.

Furthermore, I believe accountability in the context of policing, means that Jason Van Dyke be forced to pay back the money the city of Chicago awarded to him during his 13-month paid leave. I firmly believe that accountability in the context of policing means an immediate firing of Dante Servin
with no paid leave and no pension. As for public policy and fostering a culture in which police officers elevate the importance of telling the truth, let us remember the brutal murder of Fred Hampton by CPD. And historical evidence should not be allowed to be sealed or concealed. Sealing and concealing evidence only will continue the culture of covering up CPD for murder. That is all.

MODERATOR ADAMS: Thank you. Reverend Trask.

MS. TRASK: Good evening and giving honor to God today. Truly it is good to be alive. And I'm just thankful today that I have this opportunity to stand before this Board and just to say that I have been mistreated, as an African American female by the Chicago Police Department. And this has been going on since I was 18 years old, and I'm 66 today. And I do know that this mark on my arm came from two officers that did this to me in a domestic situation where I filed an order of protection against my husband. But I'm living with this to this day from these two blacks officers, Steve and Craig. They got away with it, of course.

We went to court and everything. It was thrown out. I'm supposed to be crazy but I'm living
with this mark. So I just want to say it's not like it used to be when we were in slavery. We are supposed to be free. We are supposed to be in a society where everybody matters not just black white, green, blue, purple, or green. We are all supposed to be treated fairly and with some type of respect. I must say, you know, from what I know, Ms. Fry, since she left the public defender's office there has been all kinds of mess going on there. And I appreciate you for what you did do while you were there. Because I do believe you work -- you were fair.

I also want to say that I was hurt last year around June by a white man, Mr. Thomas Brennan, who attacked me in the courthouse. And we do know that the police officers aren't investigating the case. It goes to the court system, and everybody is involved together.

However, this white man, nobody ever did anything to him. As a matter of fact, I got a call from a detective telling me nothing was going to be done to him, but he shoved me into the door downtown in the city hall -- I'm sorry in the courthouse and nothing was done to him. Nobody even contacted him.
MODERATOR ADAMS: Your time is running out.

MS. TRASK: I also want to leave with the new superintendent, we need a new superintendent that is going to be fair. I don't know what color he is going to be, but I feel that everybody dealt with the McDonald situation or was on duty in that time should have nothing to do with his selection. Thank you very much.

MS. LIGHTFOOT: Thank you. Pat Hill.

MS. HILL: Good evening, Police Board. I am here for the second time in as many weeks after coming to these meetings for over 25 years and not having said anything for about 20 years on the Board. And the reason why I'm here for the second time is to reiterate, and I think you probably know by now somewhere deep in your soul that we are in a crisis. I think it's important for the Police Board to do the public a service, many services, but one that is important that is not on the website, is that it doesn't give a history of the Board, like why it was founded and when.

And that is important especially for the young people who are here because the Police Board
was put in place during a time similar to what we are going through right now. There was no community involvement formerly in regards to police discipline, and so at that time Mayor Daley decided that he was going to appoint a Board. The problem with that, and I think you realize that I'm going to ask for your assistance again, is that even though you're from the community, and I said this at Kennedy King, you were selected by the mayor, and so people continue to feel disenfranchised. Of course some of you, I know you lived in the community.

But what we do have to have, so that we don't continue to perpetuate what we are experiencing tonight, just the 100 percent breakdown of a relationship between our community and the police, is that you have to encourage. You have to advocate. On behalf of the recommendation I hope that I made last week, there is a group of retired police officers, troopers, sheriffs, public safety people who have the knowledge and experience of being police officers who would be well suited to assist in picking a superintendent because we know what that superintendent should possess.
Unfortunately, it's been rumored that many of those who are currently on the department’s list were ordered to put their names in. I hope it's not true. I know it is. I hope it's not true, but the fact of the matter is, we will end up with similar appointments like we had with the last two superintendents, Jody Weis and Gary McCarthy, disastrous, and we can't repeat that. The last thing I want to say --

MODERATOR ADAMS: Your time is up.

MS. HILL: I said the last thing I want to say.

MODERATOR ADAMS: Raymond Richard.

MR. RICHARD: Good evening. One of the first things I want to see in the city of Chicago, if ya'll do select a superintendent, is someone who will be held accountable for the peers, the ones who already on trial, for killing our youth, and the city of Chicago. Will he be charged? Now I know as Black man if I pull a trigger, I am immediately convicted, incarcerated. So now I want to know why is it that every time an officer of the law pull the trigger and commit the same crime I commit, he is not incarcerated.
UNKNOWN WOMAN: Please answer.

MR. RICHARD: I want to know about, do you really feel the pain of Sister Bland and Rekia Boyd, their families? Because what is going on right here, it's a crime, and it's open season on the Black man. But that's not going to last too long. We here crying out letting you know what our demands are. How long do you think we are going to stand up here and continue to let you kill our people? We are not going to stand here and continue to let you just maliciously execute our youth as well as our mothers. And genocide in the community, it relates to the officers who perpetuate it in the first place.

So I think they all should be fired. I think they should be convicted, and I think they pension should be turned over to the families whose lives they took.

MODERATOR ADAMS: Thank you sir. Gwen Baxter.

MS. BAXTER: My name is Gwen Baxter, and I'm wearing a shirt that says The Sisterhood, and there is just a few other people with the sisterhood shirts. We are a group of mothers whose children were gunned down in the streets of Chicago, and we
have not had any -- there is nothing, no findings. Nobody has found who has murdered our children, which leads me to believe or know I'm walking among murderers. I'm living among murderers. I'm paying taxes in a city that allows us to live among murderers. Not only that, but the people, the people that are supposed to investigate our children's cases are treating us like shit, like we are getting on their nerves.

All we want is justice for our children. We don't want -- I'm just fortunate and grateful that my son was not labeled a gang banger when he was killed. But there is a lot of mothers in our organization whose children were not gang bangers. That's the one part. That's my one minute question on that, what can we do? What is this new superintendent going to do about these alleged cold cases, and finally the killing of children?

My second question is, three houses on my block where I live, I live in the 8th District. Three houses have been gunned up at 5:30 in the morning, 5:00, 5:30. One was my neighbor. I'm the block club president on my street, and my neighbor, they rung her doorbell. When she opened her door,
they gunned her down. She didn't die, I thank God. They put a video on FB. They talked about it. The next day, my neighbor on the corner who was a mechanic, the neighborhood mechanic, they knocked on his door, and no one answered his door, so they went to shoot bullets into his house. There is a retired school teacher that lives across the street. They knocked on her door and gunned her house up.

    All this happened between 5:00 a.m. and 5:30 a.m. That's early in the morning. I drive for Uber. I leave out at 5:00 in the morning. I'm now fearful of walking out of my house because there is no -- I mean, what I -- my question is, what do I -- what does it take? Do it take for the sister -- to have a sister dead before the police will sit out there or before they're doing anything? If these young men really are bold enough to pull up -- the superintendent, whoever is in charge, I live at 67th and Oakley. 67th and Oakley.

    MODERATOR ADAMS: Thank you.

    MS. BAXTER: What do it take for me to get some police presence out there so I can go to work in the morning?

    MS. LIGHTFOOT: Thank you.
MS. BAXTER: I'll wait for the answer. It's not a statement, it's a question. That's all. Can I get an answer to that question?

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT ESCALANTE: We will give you -- we will meet with you after that.

MS. HALL: Hello, it's my first time here. My son was killed January 13 -- January 18, 2013, 5500 West North Avenue inside of Popeyes. I have been in Chicago all my life. Been on my job working for the government 27 years, but my question is, it's some good police officers out here. It's some good ones out here. I know that. It's okay to say we don't have a solution because we don't have the solution. My thing is, my question is, Popeyes has a camera. The Dollar Store across the street, the Dollar General, White Castles, but when they reviewed the tapes, nobody's camera was working.

And my son, he was a known -- well he had gang affiliations. So what I want to know is, is that why his case is not solved because they said he was -- he had gang ties? Like I said, we don't -- I know you guys don't all have the solutions because we don't have the solutions as parents. I'm a single parent. When you get a certain age, you go...
out and do what you want to do, but that still --
does that give a person the right to kill my son and
for the police that is on the case, they're working
with me now because I had to leave Chicago because
my mind was messed up.

I was on retaliation but I know that was
not the way to go. I had to get my head clear
because I have his three-year old daughter that I
have to raise now. But my question is, my statement
is, I know you guys don't always have the answer.
We don't have the answers but we have to work
together.

MODERATOR ADAMS: Thank you.

MS. REED-VEAL: I'm Geneva Reed-Veal and I'm
the mother of Sandra Bland. And what I want to say
is, I have been a part of a journey that is not a
fun one for the last six months. What you all see
here, this is pain. That's what this is. And so as
I'm standing here, as I'm watching, it has been said
and I've even seen it myself, are law enforcement,
some of them have become body snatchers. I'm a body
watcher. And so I have watched every last one of
you sit here, and you say that you have asked the
people to ask questions.
If you're not writing down the questions, how can you remember what I'm saying if you're not writing down what I'm saying? So I watch body language. I watch the crossing of the arms. And when I say to you, when we're asked and given two minutes in each of those places that we go to speak, we're dealing with this lifelong pain that you can't take a picture of, you can't record it. You can't sit it off to the side and put it under sunlight and a snapshot. But we are asked to be patient, okay. We are asked to wait for years, months, through valleys, peaks while your people are allowed to do all of what they want to do. They're on administrative leave. Our people are not on administrative leave. They're gone. And so there is no administrative leave for them, and it doesn't matter what color you have. It doesn't matter to me. What I'm concerned about is, where is your head?

Because when my daughter was found -- because we are found -- there is still no answers six months later. Some families still have no answers one year, two years, three years, four years. And so we have an opportunity every day as
people, just anybody with sense, you have got two opportunities every day. You can either react foolishly or you can respond appropriately. So just because I don't come across this counter on you doesn't mean I'm not reacting appropriately. But you need to understand the pain, and it's real and it's deep. And it goes farther than what anybody can explain to you because you go through so many things in your mind, as you miss your relative.

But I would just ask, that while these folks are executing our people, let's stop criminalizing the victim. Let's stop telling all the business about the victims because it doesn't come from the media. It comes from the police. That's where it comes from, and so they throw us all under the bus, and then the secret background of the cop has got to be pulled out. So I just say, if you are about keeping the peace in the community, keeping the peace in the neighborhoods, you have to understand that there can be no peace if we can't even get the pieces of information that we need to find out what happened to our family members.

So I say to you tonight, I may not scream, I may not run across the room, but I'm going
to keep talking. You will see me. This was my first meeting. It will not be my last. If you're going to do something, do something.

MS. LIGHTFOOT: Thank you.

MR. LAMBERT: Good evening. My name is Cannon Lambert. I represent Ms. Veal and her family. I know this is a situation where you're asking for specific suggestions, and I just want to provide you with one. From my standpoint it seems to me that officers many times feel like there is no recourse -- no reprisal for what it is that they do. When they, many times lie, let's just be frank, they're not held to account. It strikes me that in the event than an officer who is in a situation, a specific situation where the citizenry gives trust or is supposed to, at least is asked to give trust, that if an officer lies, they should be held accountable in a way that they are -- they're charged with a felony, and that being the case, if they're found guilty of a felony, they will not be able to work again.

It strikes me that with respect to the next superintendent that you appoint that you find the superintendent should be someone who goes to the
judiciary and says to the judiciary they're interested in making sure that in the event that their officers, the rank and file lie, they are prosecuted.

And so specific requests that I would make is that when it comes to the next superintendent, the superintendent makes it very clear that when his or her officers lie, that they be charged. Because what happens in our setting, as you know, many of you that are lawyers, you know in our setting when there is a lie that is told in court, it's overlooked. There is no charge that is issued. So in the event you change that, you can make it a felony, those things will change because no officer is going to want to step to the plate for a person they know did wrong.

MS. LIGHTFOOT: Thank you. That concludes our speakers for tonight. We appreciate your coming. We have heard a lot of interesting commentary tonight, and we thank you for bringing to us your concerns on a range of issues. Thank you very much. Do I have a motion to adjourn the meeting?

MS. FRY: So moved.

MR. CONLON: Second.
MS. LIGHTFOOT: All in favor (chorus of ayes.)

Meeting adjourned.
STATE OF ILLINOIS )
COUNTY OF COOK ) SS.

Rachel Smith, being first duly sworn on oath, says that she is a Certified Shorthand Reporter, doing business in the City of Chicago, County of Cook, and the State of Illinois;

That she reported in shorthand the foregoing Chicago Police Board meeting;

And that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of her shorthand notes so taken as aforesaid and contains all the proceedings had at the said Chicago Police Board meeting;

_________________________________________
Rachel Smith, CSR

CSR No. 84-4161.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 29th day of January, A.D., 2016

_________________________________________
Notary Public
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