

Public Meeting
March 21, 2024

POLICE BOARD
CITY OF CHICAGO
PUBLIC MEETING

3510 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

Thursday, March 21, 2024
7:30 p.m.

APPEARANCES:

MEMBERS OF THE POLICE BOARD:

KYLE COOPER, President
PAULA WOLFF, Vice President
STEVEN BLOCK (Telephonically)
AJA CARR-FAVORS
NANETTE DOORLEY,
MICHAEL EADDY
GHIAN FOREMAN
ANDREAS SAFAKAS

ALSO PRESENT:

LARRY SNELLING, Superintendent of the Chicago Police
Department;
ANDREA KERSTEN, Chief Administrator of the Civilian
Office of Police Accountability;
DEBORAH WITZBURG, Inspector General of the City of
Chicago Office of Inspector General;
YOLANDA TALLEY, Chief of the Chicago Police
Department's Bureau of Internal Affairs;
SCOTT SPEARS, Acting General Counsel to the
Superintendent;
MAX CAPRONI, Executive Director of the Chicago
Police Board;
JAZMYNE ROLLINS, Executive Administrative Assistant
Chicago Police Board;
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

1 PRESIDENT COOPER: Good evening, everyone. My
2 name is Kyle Cooper, and I am the president of the
3 Police Board. I'm calling the Board's March 21st
4 public meeting to order.

5 With me we have the following Board
6 members attending in person this evening: The Vice
7 President, Paula Wolff, Member Aja Carr-Favors,
8 Nanette Doorley, Reverend Michael Eaddy, Ghian
9 Foreman, and Andreas Safakas. Board Member Steven
10 Block is unable to attend this meeting in person for
11 work-related reasons and wishes to attend remotely.
12 Is there a motion to permit him to do so?

13 VICE PRESIDENT WOLFF: Paula Wolff. I so
14 move.

15 BOARD MEMBER EADDY: Second. Michael Eaddy.

16 PRESIDENT COOPER: All in favor, please raise
17 your hands and say aye.

18 (CHORUS OF AYES.)

19 PRESIDENT COOPER: Any opposed?

20 (NO RESPONSE.)

21 PRESIDENT COOPER: Seeing none, the motion
22 passes.

23 In addition to Police Board members,
24 we have the following City officials here with us

1 this evening: Superintendent of Police, Mr. Larry
2 Snelling. We have the Chief Administrator of the
3 Civilian Office of Police Accountability, Ms. Andrea
4 Kersten. We have the Inspector General of the City
5 of Chicago, Ms. Deborah Witzburg. The Chief of the
6 Chicago Police Department's Bureau of Internal
7 Affairs, Ms. Yolanda Talley. We have Acting General
8 Counsel to the Superintendent of Police, Mr. Scott
9 Spears, and the Police Board's Executive Director,
10 Mr. Max Caproni.

11 We will now proceed to the items on
12 the agenda, and at the end, we'll have time for
13 several comments, of which many individuals have
14 signed up to speak.

15 Moving on to the minutes. Is there a
16 motion to approve the draft minutes of the Board's
17 public and closed meetings held on February 22nd,
18 2024?

19 VICE PRESIDENT WOLFF: So moved. Paula Wolff.

20 BOARD MEMBER EADDY: Second. Michael Eaddy.

21 PRESIDENT COOPER: All in favor, please raise
22 their hands and say aye.

23 (CHORUS OF AYES.)

24 PRESIDENT COOPER: Any opposed?

1 (NO RESPONSE.)

2 PRESIDENT COOPER: Seeing and hearing none, the
3 motion passes.

4 To the members of the general public,
5 the next meeting of the Police Board is scheduled to
6 take place on Thursday, April 18th, at 7:30 p.m.,
7 and that meeting will be held where this meeting is
8 being held here at the Chicago Public Safety
9 Headquarters.

10 The Police Board meets in executive
11 session to consider various matters. Those
12 discussions are closed to the public as authorized
13 by Section 2(c)(1), Section (4), Section (11), and
14 Section (21) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act.
15 Information on matters discussed in the executive
16 sessions is included in the minutes of the meetings
17 posted on our website.

18 Is there a motion to close a series of
19 future executive sessions as authorized by these
20 sections of the Open Meetings Act?

21 VICE PRESIDENT WOLFF: So moved. Paula Wolff.

22 BOARD MEMBER EADDY: Second. Michael Eaddy.

23 PRESIDENT COOPER: All in favor, please raise
24 your hands and say aye.

1 (CHORUS OF AYES.)

2 PRESIDENT COOPER: Any opposed?

3 (NO RESPONSE.)

4 PRESIDENT COOPER: Seeing none, the motion
5 passes.

6 The next item on the agenda is a
7 report on the status of the court case on the
8 arbitrator's ruling regarding police disciplinary
9 cases, including an update on the status of cases
10 currently pending before the Board.

11 This morning, Cook County Circuit
12 Judge Michael Mullen issued his ruling that allows
13 Chicago police officers to choose to have the most
14 serious disciplinary cases heard by an arbitrator
15 rather than the Police Board. I appreciate the
16 time, care, and attention that Judge Mullen gave to
17 this important matter; however, I respectfully
18 disagree with the ruling.

19 While it is reassuring that any such
20 arbitrations will be open to the public, police
21 accountability will nevertheless suffer by having
22 the most serious cases decided by individual
23 arbitrators who are not required to live in Chicago
24 and not required to undergo the extensive training

1 required by the Consent Decree.

2 Despite today's decision, I remain
3 confident that the Police Board will continue to be
4 a fair and transparent decision-maker in those cases
5 that it will continue to oversee.

6 In the weeks to come, the Board will
7 be hearing from the parties to disciplinary cases
8 currently before the Board as to their position on
9 how those cases should proceed.

10 As for an update, there are currently
11 20 cases against Chicago police officers pending
12 before the Police Board. The evidentiary hearings
13 for three of these cases have concluded and have
14 been taken under advisement by the Board. Hearings
15 for nine cases are currently scheduled to take place
16 from April through October. The remaining eight
17 cases are in earlier stages and a hearing on these
18 charges have not been scheduled.

19 The Police Board's website will
20 continue to keep the public informed of any new
21 developments in the litigation and of the status of
22 disciplinary cases currently before the Board. And
23 I encourage the members of the public to check the
24 news and police discipline sections of our website

1 for the most current information.

2 In the coming days, the Board will
3 also be engaging with all stakeholders to explore
4 other ways in which the Board can continue to
5 promote transparency and accountability in Chicago's
6 Police-accountability system. And given the Court's
7 recent decision, this endeavor is more crucial now
8 than ever.

9 The next item on our agenda is appeal
10 by applicants to become police officers. When a
11 person applies to become a Chicago police officer is
12 disqualified and removed from the eligibility list
13 due to results of a background examination, that
14 person has a right to appeal to the Police Board.

15 The Board, as authorized by The Open
16 Meetings Act, has discussed in a closed meeting one
17 such appeal. We will now take final action on this
18 appeal. Is there a motion to affirm the
19 disqualification decision for Appeal Number
20 24 AA 02?

21 VICE PRESIDENT WOLFF: So moved. Paula Wolff.

22 BOARD MEMBER EADDY: Second. Michael Eaddy.

23 PRESIDENT COOPER: Having a second, I will now
24 call on the members of the Board for their votes.

1 Vice President Wolff.

2 VICE PRESIDENT WOLFF: Aye.

3 PRESIDENT COOPER: Member Block.

4 BOARD MEMBER BLOCK: Aye.

5 PRESIDENT COOPER: Member Carr-Favors.

6 BOARD MEMBER CAR-FAVORS: Aye.

7 PRESIDENT COOPER: Member Doorley.

8 BOARD MEMBER DOORLEY: Aye.

9 PRESIDENT COOPER: Member Reverend Eaddy.

10 BOARD MEMBER EADDY: Aye.

11 PRESIDENT COOPER: Member Ghian Foreman.

12 BOARD MEMBER FOREMAN: Aye.

13 PRESIDENT COOPER: And Board Member Andre
14 Safakas.

15 BOARD MEMBER SAFAKAS: Aye.

16 PRESIDENT COOPER: I also vote in favor of the
17 motion.

18 Voting in favor are myself, Board
19 Members Wolff, Block, Carr-Favors, Doorley, Reverend
20 Eaddy, Foreman, Safakas, and myself. The motion
21 passes.

22 The written decision of this appeal
23 will be entered as of today's date and posted on the
24 Board's website.

1 At this time, I would ask for the
2 Superintendent to give his report. And before I do
3 so, I would just like to say on behalf of the Board
4 that we recently learned that a Chicago police
5 officer was involved in a shooting and was shot, and
6 we wish him a speedy recovery, and that he can
7 recover in a quick and safe manner.

8 SUPERINTENDENT SNELLING: Thank you for that,
9 President, for acknowledging our officer who has
10 been injured, but we hope that that officer will
11 make a speedy recovery.

12 They are out there working hard,
13 trying to keep the streets safe, and as a result of
14 that was injured. But the officer it sounds like
15 will be okay. So thank you very much for that.

16 I'd like to start by saying for the
17 past six months, we've been working internally to
18 break down cycles within the Chicago Police
19 Department so that all of our bureaus are working
20 together collaboratively to help get to the bottom
21 of the public safety, especially as it relates to
22 our relationship with the community.

23 We just recently had a very good
24 CompStat report out with our detective division.

1 We've been doing an excellent, excellent job of
2 bringing justice to families.

3 Right now at this point in the year,
4 we have the highest clearance rates that we've had
5 in the past ten years. Right now, the clearance
6 rates are at 83 percent. So the detective division
7 is working really hard. Just this morning, we
8 announced charges on a 16-year-old who was charged
9 as an adult for a triple homicide, which occurred in
10 the 6th District in the 8000 block of Vincennes. So
11 I'd just like to commend the men and women of the
12 Chicago Police Department for working really hard to
13 bring justice to families and those victims who no
14 longer have a voice because they are no longer with
15 us.

16 We often say that the officers don't
17 care or we're not concerned about these individuals.
18 Our officers are working all over. They're working
19 really hard to reach out to bring justice to these
20 families, and I just want to commend these officers
21 for the work that they're doing and the follow-up on
22 these violent crimes that are occurring out here.

23 As we work collaboratively within CPD,
24 we're also working to work collaboratively with our

1 community members. These are stakeholders. We want
2 to keep this City safe. The best way to do that is
3 to accept the input of our community members, to
4 engage with them, to give them a voice and hear what
5 they have to say. We have been working with
6 community members because when it comes to these
7 clearance rates, it's because community members have
8 stepped up and given us information.

9 The only way that we can do that is to
10 start to gain the trust of these community members,
11 which we're seeing as is reflected in these
12 clearance rates.

13 I think working with these communities
14 and then providing services for the victims has done
15 a lot to raise awareness and help us build those
16 bridges again.

17 We still have a lot of work to do.
18 There's no doubt about that. And we'll continue on
19 that journey. We will continue on that path to
20 building their trust with the community.

21 As a result of what we've been doing
22 this year -- and we do realize that as the weather
23 changes, crime usually spikes. We've had a very,
24 you know, unnatural February and March when it comes

1 to the weather. So we've seen spikes here and
2 there. But even though the weather has led to some
3 upticks in robbery and shootings, we are still
4 seeing a 10 percent decrease in shootings, a 10
5 percent decrease in homicides. We have a 27 percent
6 decrease in vehicular hijackings. A 28 percent
7 decrease in motor vehicle thefts. We've recovered
8 2,425 guns so far this year, and that's a 6 percent
9 increase from where we were last year where we
10 recovered nearly 13,000 guns by the end of the year,
11 which is more guns than are usually recovered with
12 -- if you combine gun recoveries with L.A. and New
13 York.

14 We do have a gun problem here in
15 Chicago.

16 We just recently celebrated the
17 graduation of 200 new police officers earlier this
18 month. These officers are bright, dedicated men and
19 women who are prioritizing professionalism and
20 respect as they protect our City.

21 We've also promoted field training
22 officers and lieutenants. These supervisors are
23 going to help our young officers and guide them in
24 the right direction so that they are constantly

1 doing the right thing to keep our city safe.

2 Our detectives will also continue to
3 do the investigations that they are doing, working
4 diligently and working hard to find individuals who
5 have fled, left the City, some who have left the
6 state, and they're continuously pursuing these
7 individuals so that they can't harm anyone else.

8 We care about our victims in this
9 City. And I will say this again, and I will
10 continue to say it, we have forgotten about our
11 victims and our survivors of violent crime.

12 Until we start to pay attention to the
13 people in this City who just want to get up, go to
14 work, raise their kids and live a decent life, like
15 normal individuals do, until we start realizing
16 that, the violence will continue.

17 We have to have a focus on violent
18 crime. And when our young people are committing
19 violent crimes, we have to hold them accountable,
20 because if we don't hold them accountable -- and
21 when I say we, I'm talking collectively, the police
22 department, parents, other agencies within the City
23 of Chicago, all of the service providers who are
24 here to provide those wraparound services for these

1 young people, if we -- if we don't hold them
2 accountable, something else will. And there are two
3 ways that they can go; they can either become a
4 statistic themselves or they end up in prison.

5 We cannot allow repeat offenders to
6 continue to offend. We must think about our people
7 who have been victimized. And what I want to be
8 clear here today is that what we're working toward
9 in the Chicago Police Department is to continue to
10 build a department with members who have enough
11 compassion for the people in our City to be the
12 bodies who stand between those good people and those
13 who will do them harm. Thank you.

14 PRESIDENT COOPER: Thank you, Superintendent.
15 I would next ask Chief Administrator of COPA, Andrea
16 Kersten, to give her report.

17 CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR KERSTEN: Thank you,
18 President Cooper, Members of the Board. I
19 appreciate the opportunity to be here this evening
20 and especially with as many community members and
21 other City leaders we have present in the room
22 tonight.

23 I want to also express condolences to
24 the members of the Chicago Police Department in

1 light of tonight's events. I think it really
2 crystallizes the importance of having these
3 conversations collaboratively and productively about
4 how COPA does its job, how the Chicago Police
5 Department lives up to its policies and training,
6 and how we move forward as a City.

7 So heartened to hear that the officer
8 is in the condition that he is at this time, and
9 look forward to him making a full recovery.

10 I was also heartened to hear,
11 Superintendent, you talking tonight about the spirit
12 of collaboration the Chicago Police Department is
13 engaging in with respect to the community that it
14 serves. I think that's something that COPA
15 certainly seeks to do with respect to our work
16 within the community, as well as our work with your
17 Department. And in the month since our last Police
18 Board meeting, I spent a lot of time reflecting on
19 some of the ways in which I think our two
20 departments have been most successful in
21 collaborating, and it was helped along by having a
22 meeting earlier this week with the Independent
23 Monitoring Team. Obviously, the folks who are in
24 the room, how they are evaluating all the City's

1 progress with respect to the Consent Decree. And
2 when COPA met with the members of monitoring team
3 and some representatives from the Attorney General's
4 Office this week, a couple of key issues came up
5 that really helped sort of reframe for me some of
6 the things that are working extraordinarily well
7 between our respective agencies.

8 One area I think of tremendous success
9 has been our collaboration with the Bureau of
10 Internal Affairs, particularly around sexual
11 misconduct investigations and the joint interview
12 process.

13 That was, again, highlighted by the
14 Independent Monitoring Team as sort of a model
15 practice nationally, and something that I think
16 speaks to the fact that we can do things that are
17 difficult, and we can do things that haven't been
18 done before in the way our two departments function,
19 and we can do so with great success. And so that's
20 one area that I just wanted to lift up and thank you
21 and your leadership and that of Chief Talley for
22 continuing to collaborate with us in those efforts.

23 Another area of collaboration has been
24 over the five years of the Consent Decree, COPA

1 being a much smaller agency with far less
2 obligations than the Chicago Police Department has,
3 we've had the ability to move with a little bit more
4 speed and agility in our compliance process. And I
5 was excited to learn that the Independent Monitoring
6 Team just this week shared with us that several of
7 our policies and trainings have been resources that
8 the Chicago Police Department was able to use in
9 development of their own policy and training,
10 specifically around the areas of disciplinary
11 recommendations and other parts of our
12 accountability system.

13 So, again, you know, while there are
14 things that we disagree on wholeheartedly at times,
15 there's a lot of things, I think, that are working
16 between the ways that our two agencies collaborate.
17 And I hope that we can continue in that spirit of
18 collaboration, that you all are making tremendous
19 progress with our communities, that we can continue
20 that collaboration with our respective agencies as
21 we move forward.

22 Lastly, I will just share, because in
23 February, I did not end up reporting out too much on
24 our actual annual report from 2023, so I did just

1 want to give a little bit of a forward picture I
2 think of some of the disciplinary recommendations
3 when you look at them in a whole for members of the
4 Police Board and members of the public who might be
5 interested.

6 So, again, we were excited about the
7 case closures in 2023, primarily because we did a
8 lot of work to address our old and aging
9 investigations. So we concluded last year 1814
10 total complaints or investigations. And in those,
11 the vast majority, over 1500 of them, were concluded
12 without making any sort of findings or disciplinary
13 recommendations of any kind. Some of them had
14 training recommendations, but those are optional,
15 but also things that I know that members of the BIA
16 and yourself, Superintendent Snelling, have been
17 encouraged by with respect to retraining being
18 really key in a lot of these complaints.

19 Of the only 265 cases that actually
20 had some sort of disciplinary recommendation, about
21 9 percent of them resulted in a violation noted
22 recommendation. That's the very lowest level of any
23 sort of discipline that we can recommend. 17
24 percent had a reprimand recommendation, so that's

1 sort of next tier up. Like putting a note in your
2 file that something happened. The largest category
3 of disciplinary recommendations that we made in 2023
4 was between 1 and 30 days of suspension. That was
5 44 percent of our overall disciplinary
6 recommendations. And then for the two highest
7 categories, 30 plus days of suspension, 19 percent
8 of our total discipline were in that category, and 9
9 percent for total discipline recommended last year
10 were in the separation category.

11 So, again, I think context is always
12 really important when we're talking about the number
13 of separation recommendations or the high-profile
14 cases that make their way to the media because of
15 disagreements, but, again, I want to always ground
16 us in what the big picture looks like, because the
17 big picture is the majority of citizen complaints
18 that come through our office result in our
19 investigations clearing officers of the allegations
20 that are against them, and that's what the numbers
21 show.

22 So, again, I look forward to
23 continuing to try to collaborate in this work in
24 ways that we can and things that we agree with, and

1 as always, I appreciate the service of each and
2 every member of the Chicago Police Department, as I,
3 too, am a resident of the City raising a young
4 family here and wanting all of us to have a sense of
5 safety that we deserve. So thank you.

6 PRESIDENT COOPER: Thank you, Chief
7 Administrator Kersten.

8 I would now like to call upon members
9 of the general public who have signed up to speak,
10 and the first speaker that we have is a commissioner
11 from the CCPSA, Yvette Loizon.

12 MS. LOIZON: Good evening, everybody. I'm here
13 this evening because I wanted to report to the
14 Police Board that at our commission meeting that was
15 just right before yours, the Community Commission
16 for Public Safety and Accountability voted to send
17 five names to the Mayor for consideration for
18 appointment to the Police Board. At this time, as I
19 know many of you are aware, there are three
20 vacancies on the Police Board, and three current
21 members are very kindly serving beyond their term;
22 Pastor Eaddy, Ghian Foreman, and Mareilé Cusack,
23 which they are doing a very kind service to our City
24 by serving beyond their term.

1 We have gone through the interview
2 process with six candidates. The interview process
3 for the Police Board involves a two-round interview,
4 one is a Q and A, the second is an assessment of a
5 scenario that would be similar to a scenario that
6 Police Board members would review and assess.
7 Through that process, we audio record all of the
8 interviews so that all seven commissioners have an
9 opportunity to hear all of the answers and responses
10 that we get. And after we all review them and score
11 them pursuant to a pre-established rubric, we then
12 vote.

13 So this evening, the Community
14 Commission has voted to submit the following names
15 to the mayor for consideration for the Police Board.
16 There's five candidates. It's Claudia Badillo,
17 Jerry Brown, Kathryn Liss, Lauren Raymond, and
18 Justin Terry.

19 I want to thank you all of the Police
20 Board members who are serving beyond their term for
21 sticking with us and your patience and kindness in
22 doing so.

23 I do want to thank the entire Police
24 Board for being patient with us, because I know you

1 have been working with less people than you would
2 like to have, and that people are putting in extra
3 time. So I'm happy to deliver that news.

4 The Mayor has 30 days to make a
5 decision once the names are submitted, and then once
6 his decision is made, it will go before the City
7 Council for their decision. So I am hopeful you
8 will have some new members soon. Thank you.

9 PRESIDENT COOPER: Thank you, Commissioner
10 Loizon, and for the work that you and the CCPSA have
11 done in the past couple of months to get those names
12 to the Mayor. We really appreciate your efforts.

13 The next member of the public who I
14 would like to call to speak is Ms. Jennifer Edwards.

15 MS. JENNIFER EDWARDS: Can we have two people,
16 next person, just for time to come --

17 PRESIDENT COOPER: Absolutely.

18 MS. JENNIFER EDWARDS: We've been doing this
19 Together We Can project for almost three years, so
20 we thought it was important to give you some of the
21 bases of it, so I wrote an outline, and you will see
22 the little booklet that you have, it's got the pages
23 in there, and we'll tell you when to turn, and,
24 hopefully, the Superintendent will see how serious

1 we are about these -- this particular project. So
2 it's called Together We Can. We got sweatshirts,
3 all types of things that we do every week or every
4 other week. Okay. So I'm going to read my
5 introduction. We're introducing the Together We Can
6 project that's been operating in the 3rd District
7 for approximately two years. We will be presenting
8 a video, descriptions of non-community and police
9 joint engagements and how examinations of crime data
10 and specific strategies have combatted instances of
11 crime patterns. We also mentioned tools and
12 comparisons of before use and after the use of
13 Together We Can strategies presented. Our project
14 involves weekly collaboration with various community
15 groups, nonprofits, businesses, schools, clergy,
16 block clubs and local officials in sector areas.
17 And if you guys don't know the sectors, the police
18 districts are separated in sectors. The police know
19 about this, but I'm just telling you. Okay? Our
20 purpose is an examination of weekly, biweekly
21 CompStat data, which the Superintendent mentioned,
22 by the community. So we want to see what's going
23 on. Okay? We want them to know what's happening.
24 Break-out sessions by sectors. Here we got sectors

1 again. Examples of strategizing of how to combat
2 the carjacking thefts situation and comparing before
3 saturating the areas and after.

4 Our hopes are that we build -- I'm
5 going to read this again afterwards, too. That we
6 build neighborhood bases, block by block, using
7 technology tools. The DCO takeover. These are
8 district coordinating officers. We want them to go
9 out, and we just take over sections. Okay? Create
10 area safe houses for police and community with
11 retired officers, current officers, use of community
12 people in abandoned or vacant houses. And we want
13 to revisit the COP House that we're trying to build
14 in Roseland -- the Superintendent might know about
15 this -- from Racine, Wisconsin. They would build
16 community -- redo houses and have those for the
17 community for the police and for other various
18 things. Okay? And that's similar to what they're
19 talking about in the City Council as far as opening
20 up different districts -- old districts. So you
21 know, it's kind of a stretch, but that's similar.

22 We want to tackle the domestic
23 violence issues which cause a lot of the crime with
24 a strong interaction with non-profits block and

1 community representatives. We want to review the
2 Crime Victim Services System. You spoke about that.
3 That is a problem that we see, and we encourage the
4 first outreach to begin with community
5 representatives. Went to something, no communities
6 came. Resources were there, and that was a problem.
7 So we want to do something different. And
8 recommendations from break-out sessions.

9 So I want to introduce pastor Alonzo
10 Nichols. He is the one that goes out with us and
11 one of the people. Okay? And he is going to talk
12 about, if you look in your booklets, Why Together We
13 Can and Community and Police Together We Can
14 program, and resetting the community relationships
15 is what he is going to talk about.

16 PASTOR NICHOLS: Thank you.

17 PRESIDENT COOPER: You will have all the time
18 you need for your presentation. We give you guys 15
19 minutes.

20 PASTOR NICHOLS: Okay. Thank you so much. I
21 almost said amen. I just want to focus our
22 attention if you have your pamphlets there on page
23 4, it's called Resetting Community Relationships.
24 Intentional coming together of community and law

1 enforcement to acknowledge norms and narratives on
2 both sides and commit a new way of addressing
3 violence. This is what we are intending to do. A
4 new way of addressing violence.

5 We have about two to three pastors
6 coming together weekly and being a part of Together
7 We Can. That's what it's called, Together We Can.
8 Showing the community that we are one. The clergy
9 and the Police Department is one.

10 We witnessed numerous occasions --
11 and I just want to point out some things we
12 witnessed by being together with the Police
13 Department. I'm talking on behalf of the clergy.
14 Old ladies coming out from their doors, thanking us
15 for being in their neighborhood. CTA bus drivers
16 blowing their horns as they pass encouraging us,
17 telling us go right on ahead. We love what we see.
18 We've approached young men that were gang members.
19 We walk up and approach them. We don't look at them
20 far off. We walk up and approach them and held
21 conversations with them. Prayed and embraced them
22 as a father would do a son. We've seen tears of
23 young women falling from their cheeks as we were
24 praying for them and their children. We've

1 developed a following on social media. And if we go
2 live when we are on the street corner, receiving
3 many comments from people, not only in Chicago, but
4 in other states. We had one lady testify -- when I
5 say testify, I mean comment. Comment on social
6 media. She said, We wish that we were doing what
7 you all are doing in Chicago in Baltimore, Maryland.
8 That's just how much of an impact that what we're
9 doing on the street corner, coming together, clergy
10 and the Police Department, that other people are
11 seeing it and wish they had the same thing.

12 I want to thank you all for this
13 time. Good bless. God Bless. It's just searching
14 me.

15 (APPLAUSE BY AUDIENCE)

16 MS. JENNIFER EDWARDS: If you look at slide
17 number five -- section number five, you will see a
18 pink box -- really supposed to be reddish -- and a
19 green box. Okay. This -- if you notice the line
20 that's within the box -- it's seven. The fancy one.
21 Okay. The line is a hotspot area. Okay. That's
22 something that we learned. Hotspots are areas where
23 there's drugs. It is declared by the Police
24 Department. The Superintendent knows. We got

1 several. But this is one in the 3rd District, 71st
2 and Jeffrey, where we've been working for a while.
3 Okay. If you notice the dates, they're June to July
4 of 2023. As it starts getting warm, the crime goes
5 up. Okay. Everybody knows this. So at this
6 particular time, our CompStat crimes were 75 percent
7 increase. So that's quite a bit. All right.
8 You'll notice the different colors inside the box,
9 those are the times of when they're going out.

10 There was -- if you look at the
11 next -- go to the right, you will see green and dots
12 inside. Those are clusters of where we have gone.
13 We can't put all of that, but that's a cluster.
14 Then if you look at -- that's from June 1st, 2023,
15 to June 29th, 2023. If you go over to the green
16 side, which is what we want, you will see because of
17 all of the walks and things that we've done on a
18 weekly basis, that the percentage is a 64 percent
19 decrease. And that's the CompStat information in
20 that same area. You'll look at the colors are
21 spread out a little bit more. That's because we've
22 done more. So this shows if it's examined, and it
23 is examined on a monthly basis, the commanders have
24 to go and report to that guy about what's going on.

1 And so we're trying to look at this stuff, too.

2 The next slide is slide number eight.

3 And Ms. Camille Levi is going to be talking about a
4 project that we did with car thefts, because they're
5 wild.

6 MS. LEVI: Good evening. My name is Camille
7 Levi. I've been a resident of Chicago for 12 years
8 now. And I'm really dedicated. I've seen my block
9 kind of go crazy a couple of evenings, and then I
10 witnessed the tranquility of the neighborhood. So I
11 am very dedicated to working here with the 3rd
12 District.

13 So when I first started coming to the
14 meetings, one of the big issues were the car thefts.
15 All of a sudden, every car was being, you know,
16 stolen and left throughout the City. And I felt
17 that this was a totally controllable, unavoidable
18 situation. And I come to that conclusion because my
19 background is in the automotive industry. And so
20 what we're saying is that when you bring in the
21 expertise of the people who are on the Police
22 Department with the expertise and knowledge of the
23 people in the community, you can have more creative
24 solutions to be able to solve problems.

1 So several of us came together and
2 said we're going to work with whoever we can within
3 the City, the state, and federal government to take
4 care of this issue. We contacted the dealer
5 association. We went -- actually went to a couple
6 of dealerships -- Hyundai/Kia dealerships in the
7 City. We contacted our federal representatives. We
8 contacted our state representatives, and we
9 contacted some federal agencies. So all of this
10 bubbled up to us being able to get a control over
11 the situation with Kia and Hyundai car thefts.

12 In our community, we were walking
13 around passing out flyers. We were communicating
14 with people who didn't even sometimes know that
15 their car was vulnerable and how to protect their
16 vehicle. And then we were also passing out tools to
17 be able to protect their vehicles, whether they be
18 wheel locks, clubs, and trackers.

19 So with that -- and, again, we have
20 statistics. I know you guys like statistics. If
21 you look at the next page, look at what's happening
22 in January of 2022 where there were 64 vehicle
23 thefts within the 3rd District. Then you have the
24 spike in January of 2023. Okay. Now, we were able

1 -- I would have loved to be able to solve this issue
2 immediately. There were some false starts, but we
3 came together. And now you see now in January of
4 2024, that the vehicle thefts have gone down. So
5 the good news there, definitely that overall vehicle
6 thefts have come down. They're not as focused with
7 the Hyundai/Kias anymore. They're more spread out
8 over all the motor vehicles. But it's with the
9 combination of the expertise, the connections, the
10 relationships that people have within the community,
11 with the policing, the diligence, and the
12 cooperation of our Police Department.

13 So that's one example of how Together
14 We Can can accomplish what we need to accomplish.

15 (APPLAUSE BY AUDIENCE)

16 MS. WAITSE: Good evening, Mr. President, the
17 Board, Superintendent Snelling, CPD officials and
18 COPA representatives. My name is Carol Waitse. I'm
19 a lifelong Chicagoan. I'm beat 321 facilitator.
20 I'm also a proud graduate of the Community Policing
21 Community Academy that was held here. Also 65th and
22 Minerva Block Club leader and active participant in
23 the Together We Can program.

24 My tenure as a 25-year homeowner in

1 Woodlawn has given me a window to witness and
2 participate in the ongoing transformation of the
3 Grand Crossing area.

4 You've heard our accomplishments in
5 the Together We Can program. We are very grateful
6 to the 3rd District Community Policing team for
7 their consistency, their collaboration, their
8 visibility, their engagement, and transparency which
9 has already created a very significant circle of
10 trust. We have become a family of neighbors or play
11 cousins, if you will, depending on when you were
12 born in Chicago.

13 I want to take this opportunity to
14 thank you for your time and consideration in
15 listening to the accomplishments of the Together We
16 Can program. We hope that you will consider this
17 going forward in your ongoing community engagement
18 plans.

19 Also, in the -- on the last inside
20 page of your booklet, there's a QR code to scan
21 videos that also support the data and the
22 accomplishments that we shared with you.

23 So with that, we'd like to thank you
24 for your attention, and we look forward to

1 collaborating with you going forward.

2 (APPLAUSE BY AUDIENCE)

3 MS. JENNIFER EDWARDS: Well, thank you, guys.
4 We really want to push for this. Some of the things
5 that we said in the beginning, suggestions, it hurts
6 us to hear that officers are out here being shot.
7 Okay. That's a problem. And so we're trying to get
8 together some type of safe houses. We don't know
9 how we're going to do it, but we want the officers
10 to be able to come and see something to know that if
11 something happens, then they can come in. They can
12 ring the bell. They can do whatever.

13 We do believe that domestic violence
14 is really happening a lot all over the country, but
15 it's important that we try to do something, get some
16 more plans for domestic violence.

17 And the crime victims system, we got
18 to do a lot with that. That is really an issue.
19 And some type of way we got to do -- you know, we
20 got to get them involved. Get -- I don't know. I
21 don't know what to do. You all are big shots. You
22 all can come up with the ideas, but we've got to do
23 something about that, because I even presented
24 about -- at the Police Board awhile back about crime

1 victim and the problems that this lady had -- her
2 uncle had who was in the hospital was just
3 ridiculous.

4 So all I want to say is thank you for
5 giving us the time. We appreciate it. And we're
6 going to press this, we hope. This will do
7 something and we can get this going. Thank you.

8 SUPERINTENDENT SNELLING: If I may respond.
9 You can clap for her.

10 (APPLAUSE BY AUDIENCE)

11 SUPERINTENDENT SNELLING: First of all,
12 Jennifer, I'm going to give you a job running my
13 CompStats.

14 But in all seriousness, though,
15 that's just great work. But you know I know the way
16 that you guys work, and the way we work with you,
17 and it's because you actually care about your
18 community, and you are out there, and you care about
19 the people in your community. That's a big
20 difference from someone who is just getting paid to
21 go over there and do some work. That doesn't mean
22 that those people don't care either. But when
23 you're invested in your community, when you are
24 invested in your neighborhood and invested in youth

1 in those communities, we can see this type of work
2 building, and we build trust in these communities.

3 Working in partnership, it can be
4 done. It can be done.

5 And I just want to be clear about the
6 last time we were here, and we spoke about some
7 things. I just want to be clear that our officers
8 are out there trying to rebuild this trust.

9 As you can see with an officer being
10 shot, they are putting their lives on the line every
11 single day to try to keep people safe.

12 What I want to be clear about is I
13 need people to understand the nuances of police
14 work. Understand the trouble that officers see
15 every day, the things that they face every single
16 day. All right.

17 I want to be clear. I got some
18 questions if I understood the 45-day window of when
19 those investigations had to be done. It's insulting
20 to think that I didn't. Of course I did. What I
21 want to be clear about is this: Fairness. That's
22 it, fairness.

23 I'm not under the belief that an
24 officer who has the immense power that we have

1 bestowed upon them should not bear the
2 responsibility and that greater than someone who
3 hasn't had that power given to them; that those
4 officers shouldn't be responsible for that power and
5 be responsible when utilizing it and should not be
6 held accountable. There has to be accountability.
7 There has to be accountability because of that sheer
8 power. But we have to be clear in understanding
9 what officers deal with on a daily basis. Seeing an
10 11-year-old child stabbed at a domestic, and then
11 those officers walk in, and they see that child. So
12 when an officer sees things on their worst days, we
13 have to understand -- because the other question
14 came up, and I've been questioned with this by
15 reporters, did you say that officers want to commit
16 suicide because there's been a judgment against them
17 and someone recommended time? Absolutely not. What
18 I'm saying is, have a clear understanding of what an
19 officer is facing when he is dealing with what he or
20 she is going through because these are human beings
21 who are seeing other human beings in their worst
22 days, in the worst situations, and they take that
23 home, and they have to find a way to deal with that
24 pain. They have to find a way to channel it.

1 What I want people to understand is
2 adrenalin rushes, auditory exclusion, split-second
3 decision-making. And when those officers are faced
4 with those challenges, please be educated on what
5 that is and how those officers are trained and what
6 happens to the human body when officers are looking
7 down the barrel of a gun and the possibility of
8 being shot. But they're out there every single day,
9 and they go back out and do it over and over again
10 because they're trying to keep this City safe.

11 It's important that we understand
12 that aspect of it.

13 I will never say that an oversight
14 body should not exist, because we know everyone has
15 a purpose and everything has a purpose. And just
16 like there's accountability for every single person,
17 there should be accountability for every single
18 organization. That's it.

19 I'm not here to be adversarial with
20 anybody. I want to work together. That is the only
21 way -- the only way we're going to make this work.
22 I will sit down and talk to anybody if I at least
23 believe that it is going to resolve something. But
24 here's the bigger issue. What I saw here today, and

1 what everyone else saw here today, is the
2 relationship with the police and the community and
3 how it can work when we break down those barriers,
4 when we see each other as human beings, when we're
5 talking to each other, when we understand each
6 other. When I'm willing to have a conversation with
7 you and understand what you're dealing with, it
8 makes it easier for me to empathize with you.
9 That's the most important thing.

10 Jennifer, I'll say this to you. The
11 COP House is on my desk right now. And basically
12 what it is, it's more like a satellite house or
13 satellite office where community and the police
14 share the same space and work on projects together.
15 They also do that with the kids. I sat down with an
16 alderman, and we talked about it. This is something
17 we're looking into doing.

18 MS. JENNIFER EDWARDS: So I read your mind
19 again, right?

20 SUPERINTENDENT SNELLING: Yes, you did. Stop
21 doing that. It's not that hard to do.

22 So we will be working with you. We're
23 going to continue to work. But what I would like to
24 do is sit with all of you at some point and talk

1 about expanding what you're doing.

2 (APPLAUSE BY AUDIENCE)

3 PRESIDENT COOPER: Thank you, Superintendent
4 Snelling, for your comments. And thank you to
5 Jennifer, Mr. Brandon, and everybody else on
6 Together We Can. I thought it was a very
7 insightful, impactful, and helpful presentation.
8 We're happy you guys were able present at this
9 meeting, which is one of the reasons that this Board
10 exists and this meeting exists, so you can share
11 those views to the people who make those decisions
12 and convey it to the public at large. Thank you,
13 all of you.

14 So the next member of the public who
15 I'd like to call to give a comment is Mr. Robert
16 More. Not seeing Mr. Robert More, Ms. CC Edwards.

17 MS. CC EDWARDS: Good evening, Board Members
18 and Superintendent. Great to see you alive and
19 well, happy. And also you, Ms. Kersten. Glad to
20 see you guys are working together. It's wonderful.

21 I'm CC Edwards, and I am a lifelong
22 resident of the Greater Grand Crossing/Park
23 Manor/Chatham area. Been in the area for a long,
24 long time. And my advocacy, a lot of it has to deal

1 with public safety. But also to work with our
2 youth. And I am president of the Grand Crossing
3 Park Advisory Council. I have been for over 18
4 years. And I've also been working with the Police
5 Department, with the 3rd and the 6th Districts,
6 because I've lived in both districts.

7 So what I want to say today,
8 Superintendent, is that my heart runs over because
9 we had an incident in the area of 75th and Eberhart.
10 One of our business owners, who I've been knowing
11 for 15 years, he had a vehicle in front of his place
12 of business. An illegal tow truck came by -- I have
13 it on video, which I will share with you -- picked
14 it up in 30 seconds. It was gone. He calls some
15 different business people in the area. They said,
16 Oh, that tow truck is over here on 71st and State.
17 So he goes over there. Business owner, he goes over
18 there to see what happened. The tow truck is behind
19 a fence at this furniture store, and the owner comes
20 out and says, Why are you videotaping? He says,
21 Because that's the tow truck that just stole my car.

22 Now to make it short, the tow truck
23 is an illegal operation going on. And right now I
24 want to commend Commander Branch, Commander Tate for

1 the excellent job that they did in not only
2 impounding these illegal tow trucks, but finding the
3 chop shop. They found the chop shop. This is
4 excellent police work. And it was in a short amount
5 of time, because I think they kind of knew what was
6 happening, but they were able to kind of zero in.

7 So what we need now -- because I'm
8 riding down the street. Here comes another one.
9 They're riding around, Superintendent, not tags, no
10 license plates, and they're going into the
11 neighborhood, they're taking senior citizens'
12 vehicles because they can get them in 30 seconds,
13 and I saw it on video.

14 So we need a little more diligency
15 and zeroing in -- I call it Operation Stop the Chop.
16 Okay. That's me. And, again, there's another side
17 effect that you talked about, and I'll try to be
18 real quick, is the youth mental health issue with
19 this violence.

20 Now right now I'm being trained as a
21 certified -- what they call a youth mental health
22 advocate to work with them in terms of mental
23 health, illness, substance abuse, and helping them
24 get resources. And this is where we come in at.

1 DCFS is about to throw a big thing I'm involved
2 with. They want me to sit on the board and whatnot.
3 But we're going to have a midnight service at Grand
4 Crossing Park. And this has been a long time
5 coming. We had it for three years in a row. We're
6 getting it back. And so we're going to have DCFS
7 there. We're going to work with these young people.
8 We're going to reach out to them about the violence.

9 A lot of them, as you know,
10 Superintendent, they see that violence at home, on
11 the streets. It's trauma. Inside trauma. So we
12 have to work with them to work out those violent
13 issues that they may have inside of them, because
14 they bring them to school, too. By the way, I'm a
15 school teacher, too.

16 So, I'm just saying, at this stage I
17 want to thank you for all of the help that you have
18 given us, especially on 75th Street. We still have
19 a few issues, but it is not as bad. Not as bad.

20 Again, I want to commend Commander
21 Branch and Commander Tate and hope that they will
22 continue to work with us to make sure that we keep
23 it safe for everyone that has to travel, children,
24 seniors, and adults. Thank you so much.

1 (APPLAUSE BY AUDIENCE)

2 PRESIDENT COOPER: And the final public speaker
3 that we have on the agenda for this evening is Mr.
4 John Catanzara.

5 MR. CATANZARA: I'm going to guess, I'm not
6 getting 15 minutes.

7 PRESIDENT COOPER: Depends what you have to
8 say.

9 MR. CATANZARA: So much to say, so little time.
10 Good evening. I want to remind everybody in the
11 audience and the panel, the Superintendent started
12 his report with talking about a 16-year-old offender
13 of a triple homicide.

14 A week ago in Texas an 11, a 12, and
15 16-year-old walked into a Texas bank and robbed it.

16 I'm here to tell you that evil is not
17 a carnival ride or a Great America roller coaster
18 that has an age limit or minimum height requirement,
19 and it is out there, and it is out there in all
20 shapes, forms, sizes, ethnicities, you name it.

21 Thankfully, the men and women of this
22 Department that I represent proudly are out there
23 doing the job. And today was another reminder of
24 just the heroic efforts, that we do not flinch in

1 the face of danger. And, thankfully, that officer
2 is going to be okay.

3 Regrettably, I have no doubt that
4 COPA will be doing everything they can to review
5 body cam to find even the most minor infraction to
6 hang up an officer to make it seem like it was
7 something done wrong, because that is one of the
8 reasons why Judge Mullen ruled the way he did this
9 morning, because there has been an increasing
10 unfairness to this whole discipline process.

11 I heard oversight. Oversight is
12 absolutely needed. But what about seven layers of
13 it? You tell me another profession that has that
14 many layers of oversight. Almost like everybody is
15 taking a shot to get their pound of flesh and
16 sometimes it's ten pounds of flesh. It is
17 excessive. It's ridiculous. And I think the fact
18 that this Board has now been basically told that you
19 are not the only game in town -- and it isn't going
20 away. Trust me, it is not going away. This is
21 going to end up in the Appellate Court and the
22 Illinois Supreme Court. I have no doubt. But our
23 officers will finally get a fair shake.

24 And I could go on example after

1 example how a fair shake has not been rendered to
2 our members for a very, very long time.

3 But I will tell you this: You're
4 going to announce some discipline tonight, maybe. I
5 would implore you to table those decisions, because
6 the judge was clear, arbitration is the way forward
7 as an option. Every one of these cases, there was a
8 filing by the attorney requesting arbitration
9 instead of this Police Board that was denied by the
10 hearing officer. What does that mean? That means
11 justice denied is going to be justice paid, because
12 when the officer then has another bite at the apple,
13 so to speak, and goes to arbitration, and if it is
14 overturned, and your decision is challenged and
15 wrong, you're going to end up costing this City
16 money, because you didn't afford them the ability to
17 go to arbitration, which was requested from the
18 beginning.

19 So I would again implore you to delay
20 these decisions until we have more clarity on this
21 issue.

22 You talked about collaborative
23 efforts going forward. It's tragic that we're here
24 now talking about collaborative efforts with all the

1 stakeholders, because the reality is we've been
2 pleading with the City from day one since I took
3 office in May of 2020 to have something worked out
4 with this provision, and every single step of the
5 way we were told it's not happening.

6 Mayor Lightfoot refused to talk about
7 it. And not until Ed Benn was made the arbitrator,
8 and they knew his previous rulings, did the City
9 then come up with an alternate option of Police
10 Board first, arbitration second.

11 Well, I find it really ironic now
12 that Judge Mullen made his ruling, and here you are
13 talking about all the stakeholders getting together
14 and looking collaboratively for a solution because
15 you don't have an option.

16 This could have been avoided so much
17 long ago. But this is a problem with this whole
18 system. It's been slanted against the officers from
19 day one. And I know damn well myself, because I've
20 been there four times myself.

21 It needs to change. And I would
22 strongly encourage you, again, to give those
23 officers you're going to rule on tonight a fair
24 shake and postpone that decision, because you are

1 poisoning the public perception of this case when it
2 does end up in arbitration. Thank you.

3 PRESIDENT COOPER: Thank you, Mr. Catanzara.

4 (APPLAUSE BY AUDIENCE)

5 PRESIDENT COOPER: There are no other members
6 who have signed up to speak.

7 Just in quick response to Mr.
8 Catanzara's remarks. The Board will not be taking
9 any action on any of the cases that are post
10 evidentiary hearing at tonight's meeting in light of
11 the Court's decision. I just want that to be clear
12 on the record.

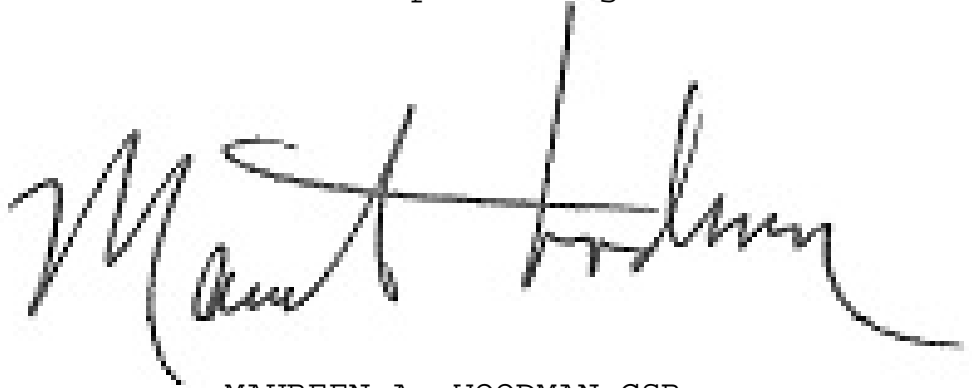
13 And, again, I thank everybody for
14 coming tonight. As always, I thought it was a
15 fruitful and productive conversation. So I
16 appreciate everybody's public support and
17 participation, and we'll see you at the next
18 meeting.

19 (WHEREUPON, the proceedings were
20 adjourned at 8:28 p.m.)

1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS:
2 COUNTY OF C O O K)
3

4 MAUREEN A. WOODMAN, C.S.R., being first duly
5 sworn, says that she is a court reporter doing
6 business in the City of Chicago; that she reported
7 in shorthand the proceedings had at the hearing of
8 said cause; that the foregoing is a true and correct
9 transcript of her shorthand notes, so taken as
10 aforesaid, and contains all the proceedings of said
11 hearing.

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MAUREEN A. WOODMAN, CSR
License No. 084.002740

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