Chicago Police Board Public Meeting

Meeting

Taken on: April 16, 2015
The public meeting of the Chicago Police Board, convened at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 16, 2015, at City of Chicago Office of Public Safety Headquarters, 3510 South Michigan Avenue, taken before Michelle M. Scalise, Certified Shorthand Reporter within the State of Illinois. Mr. Demetrius E. Carney, presiding.

PRESENT:

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

DEMETRIUS E. CARNEY
GHIAN FOREMAN
MELISSA M. BALLATE
WILLIAM CONLON
ELISA RODRIGUEZ
RHODA SWEENEY
RITA FRY (telephonically)

ALSO PRESENT:

STEVEN MITCHELL, First Deputy Chief Administrator, Independent Police Review Authority;
RALPH PRICE, General Counsel to the Superintendent;
GARY F. McCARTHY, Superintendent of Police;
MAX CAPRONI, Police Board Executive Director
MR. CARNEY: Good evening. We're calling the April 16th, 2015 meeting to order.

Board Member Rita Fry is unable to attend this meeting in person and wishes to attend via audio conference. Is there a motion to permit her to do so?

MR. FOREMAN: Second.
MR. CARNEY: All in favor?
BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.
MR. CAPRONI: Hi, Rita. It's Max Caproni.
MS. FRY: Hi, Max.
MR. CARNEY: Hi, Rita. We're into the public meeting right now so we'll just continue. We just stopped to entertain the vote to have you participate via -- by telephone conference. So we've approved and you're here. Good evening.

Okay. The first item of business is approval of the minutes of the Board's public meeting of March 19th. Is there a motion to approve the meetings -- minutes?

MR. FOREMAN: So moved.
MR. CARNEY: All in favor?
BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.
MR. FOREMAN: The next public meeting will be here on Thursday, May 21st right here at 35th and Michigan
and the meeting will begin as usual at 7:30.

At this time I ask for a motion to close the series of executive sessions for the purpose of considering litigation and personnel matters as authorized by the Open Meetings Act. Is there such a motion?

MS. BALLATE: So moved.

MR. FOREMAN: Second.

MR. CARNEY: All in favor?

BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. CARNEY: A report of disciplinary actions taken by the Board during the 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.

Now, I'm going to take action on the final cases that were entertained last month at our executive session. The Police Board is authorized by the Open Meetings Act as considered in a closed meeting, one -- only one disciplinary case. The Board will now take final action on this case. It's regarding Case No. 14 Police Board 2876. Is there a motion to find Police Officer James Franklin guilty of violating Rule 3 by attesting to a falsified police report and to
suspend him without pay for 30 days?

   MS. BALLATE: So moved.

   MR. CARNEY: All in favor by show of hands?

       (A raising of hands.)

   MR. CARNEY: Any opposed?

   MS. FRY: Opposed.

   MR. FOREMAN: (Raising hand.)

   MR. CARNEY: That's Board Member Fry. Voting in favor are Board Members Ballate, Conlon, Rodriguez, Sweeney, and myself. Opposed are Board Members Foreman and Fry. The motion passes.

Is there a motion to adopt a written finding and decisions and dissent that have been reviewed by all Board Members who participated in the case?

   MS. BALLATE: So moved.

   MR. CONLON: Second.

   MR. CARNEY: All in favor.

   BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

   MR. CARNEY: Any opposed?

       (No response.)

   MR. CARNEY: The motion passes by unanimous decision.

The Board's decision in the case on which the Board took final action this evening will be entered as
of today's date and will be issued to the parties. A copy of the written decision will be posted on the Board's Website in ten days per this meeting as required by the Municipal Code of Chicago.

At the January 15th meeting this year the Board announced its plans to reconsider revisions to its Rules of Procedure for the handling of disciplinary cases and invited comments on the proposed revisions. The Board's executive director provided a written notification of this announcement and invitation to the presidents of the unions that represent sworn members of the Police Department, and to counsel who regularly represents parties before the Board.

A draft of the proposed revisions was posted on the Board's Website. The Board received no comments on the proposed revision. We will now take final action on the matter.

Is there a motion to amend the Board's Rules of Procedure as set forth in the draft of the proposed revisions that were posted to the Board's Website and which had been made available in the blue books this evening? These (indicating) books right here.

Do I have a motion?

MR. FOREMAN: So moved.
MR. CARNEY: All in favor?

MS. BALLATE: Second.

BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. CARNEY: Copies of orders issued by the Superintendent for the previous month are listed in the blue books and are available on the Police Department's Website.

The next item is the Superintendent's report to the Board.

Mr. Superintendent.

MR. McCARTHY: Good evening, everyone.

So, as you all know, Mayor Emanuel was just reelected and one of the issues that was raised during the campaign was, naturally, crime and violence in the City of Chicago. I hate to sound like a broken record, but in the first quarter of 2015 we had an uptick in shootings and homicides which caused a lot of consternation, and rightfully so. But what was never reported, and this was reported extensively in the press, what was never reported was that in the -- in the first quarter of this year we had a 43 percent increase in the number of gun arrests that we've made in the City of Chicago.

I just want to give you a little background on
guns in Chicago. The Chicago Police Department ceases more guns than any city in the country every single year. Every year. And this goes back 30 years at least. In 2013 we ceased three guns for every one that the Los Angeles Police Department ceased and we ceased seven guns for every one that the New York City Police Department ceased. So with those statistics as background, think about a 43 percent increase in the number of guns that we took off the street in the first quarter. So it's very logical to say that there's probably more guns since there's more arrests, more shootings, and more homicides.

Now, this has been a problem and it's something I've talked about since I got here four years ago, which is the fact that people who illegally possess firearms need to go to jail. In the first quarter we made 692 arrests of individuals with illegal firearms to the tune of somewhere in the vicinity of 800 or 900 guns. But out of those 692 arrests, we only arrested 688 subjects. In other words, four people who were arrested two times in a 90-day period for illegal possession of a firearm; caught, released, caught, and released.

Our police officers are putting their lives in
jeopardy by confronting armed criminals to get those
guns off the street. Something else needs to happen
here because, as we sit here right now on April 15th,
65 percent of those individuals who are arrested with
firearms in the first quarter are already back on the
street. It's a very small component, very small
percentage of the population that causes the vast
majority of the violence. Probably 7 or 8 percent
causes about 80 percent of the violence in the City and
they're offenders today and victims tomorrow. Probably
95 percent of our violence is committed by one group of
individuals; 5 percent are unfortunate innocent
bystanders.

Until such time as that changes, we can only
do so much in policing because our job is law
enforcement. We're taking the guns off the street,
those individuals are going right back on the street,
and until such time as something changes and we get some
backup to that system we're drinking from a firehose,
we're like hamsters on a wheel running in circles. So
this is why for four years I've been talking about gun
laws and what happens to people who get arrested with
firearms. Nothing has changed yet.

We've made enormous changes to the Chicago
Police Department. You heard us talk about putting the same officers on the same beat every single day. You heard us talk about our gang violence reduction strategy and now I'm telling you about the number of guns that we're ceasing. This is something that the public at large has to understand because something has to change here in the State of Illinois.

Thank you.

MR. CARNEY: Thank you.

I will now call upon those members who have signed up to speak in advance. When your name is called, please come up to the microphone and please limit your comments to two minutes.

Mr. Robert More.

MR. MORE: It is the 16th of April of 2014. The Chicago Police Board Meeting -- I had technical difficulty with that other phone. This is the -- The Superintendent there and the members of the Police Board that are present and -- I've already got 22 seconds gone. I have a number of things that I was trying to address to the Superintendant, but before I do that, I cannot remain silent about Sergeant Eric Winstrom. The guy just restored my faith in human nature. Okay. I mean, this guy is like right up there with Detective
Joseph Lucero, the Chicago Police Department, in my estimation. I just hold the guy on a pedestal to see what he did today to take me out of this bureaucratic nightmare of being tangled up in a bureaucratic octopus and to just observe the situation and just intervene and straighten out the situation. This guy is underemployed, Sergeant Eric Winstrom. And I told this gentleman he should be the Cook County Sheriff. Okay. I will nominate him. I wonder if I can make a $20 donation.

Can I give you $20 to give to Sergeant Eric Winstrom?

MR. McCARTHY: No.

MR. MORE: I can't do that? I got to donate -- I got to reciprocate. When a guy looks at my distress and looks at this nightmare that I'm under, you know, this bureaucratic avalanche, and just straightens out the situation, I'm just like -- It just restored my faith in human nature.

I only got 30 seconds left and I had a whole number of things to address. I have to do what I can. I -- Finally, spiritual testimonial -- And the guy deserves to be supported. And his enemies are my enemies to the extent that his enemies are the enemies
of the Catholic cause.

But, anyway, I have a question, Superintendent. Oh, first I have to get this Danilo Rojas (phonetic) -- This is the issue. Danilo Rojas is trying to get indicted in a federal grand jury. I'm going to go tonight to 2740 West Thomas and I'm just going to deliver this document to him which is the document I delivered today to Sergeant Winstrom. You know, it's unobtrusive, there's absolutely no law that it's violating. So I'm just notifying you, Mr. Supervisor, that this is my understanding. My burden is under the circumstances to make sure that he cannot evade having to answer for what he did on the --

MR. CARNEY: Thank you.

MR. MORE: Thank you for your time. And this Eric Winstrom is a just gem. He's the one we can least -- He's one of the ten we can least afford to lose in the City of Chicago --

MR. CARNEY: Thank you. We have no other speakers lined up to speak, so I'll ask for a motion to adjourn?

MS. BALLATE: So moved.

MR. CARNEY: Meeting is adjourned. See you next month.

(WHEREUPON, were all the proceedings had.)
Michelle M. Scalise, 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 proceedings had at the foregoing Police Board Public 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 Police Board Public Meeting.

MICHICLL M. SCALISE, CSR

CSR No. 084-004616

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 4th day of May, A.D., 2015.

NOTARY PUBLIC