



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT:**

Mayor's Press Office

312.744.3334

[press@cityofchicago.org](mailto:press@cityofchicago.org)

**MAYOR LORI E. LIGHTFOOT ANNOUNCES INTRODUCTION OF PROPOSAL FOR  
CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT OF THE CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT**

*Mayor introduces new form of civilian led oversight of Chicago's Police*

**Chicago-** Today, Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot announced a proposal to create an independent civilian oversight body that will oversee community input on the Chicago Police Department, the Civilian Office of Police Accountability and the Police Board. The proposal fully embraces the recommendations made by the Police Accountability Task Force led by the Mayor in 2015. Mayor Lightfoot has been a leader on police reform and accountability for many years, and today's groundbreaking and transformative ordinance represents a long-awaited milestone in the Mayor's ongoing work to reform Chicago's Police Department into a national leader of constitutional policing.

"This proposal will significantly overhaul how the Chicago Police Department's leadership and members are overseen, managed and held accountable when necessary," said Mayor Lightfoot. "Creating a civilian commission like this one has long been a goal of mine and it will allow us to continue making progress in our mission to holistically reform our police department. I want to thank everyone who helped to craft this historic ordinance and look forward to working that much harder to ensure Chicago's police ultimately answer to the residents they serve."

"This plan is truly a turning point for police reform and accountability for this city," said Chris Taliaferro, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee. "Once approved, police officers will now be answerable to the public who they are hired to protect and serve, and as a former police officer and lifelong resident, I am proud to know that Chicagoans from every walk of life will now have an equal opportunity to oversee their police."

This comprehensive and robust proposal balances a range of interests and ensures that all stakeholder feedback is considered. This comes after years of important conversations with aldermen, advocates, and experts around this critical issue and a deep commitment from both the Mayor and her partners to ensuring that this plan is workable while still being as impactful on police transparency and accountability



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as possible. These conversations have involved a careful analysis of three other proposals for civilian-led police oversight bodies, authored by the Grassroots Alliance for Police Accountability (GAPA) the Civilian Police Accountability Council (CPAC), and their combined United Proposal, respectively. Today's announced proposal aims to draw from the most effective and workable aspects of those proposals, and aims to meet all three's shared goal of reforming oversight of Chicago's police, and in so doing to further empower the public to hold accountable their own law enforcement system.

While many important items were shared between GAPA, CPAC, the Unity proposal, and the Mayor's announced proposal, there are also many new additions which the Mayor and her team feel will move Chicago even closer toward national leadership in police reform. The 7-member commission will be made up of Chicago residents, but will not have any citizenship requirements or restrictions. This commission, which will begin its work on January 1, 2022, will have the powers to do the following:

- Assess performance of and set goals for the Superintendent, Chief Administrator, and Police Board President;
- Direct the Public Safety Inspector General to conduct research and audits on specific topics or issues;
- Review and provide input to the Chief Administrator, Public Safety Inspector General, Superintendent, Police Board, and other City departments and offices, including the Mayor, City Council Committee on Public Safety, and Corporation Counsel, on the police accountability system, police services, and Department policies and practices of significance to the public;
- Collaborate with the Department, COPA, and the Police Board in the development of new or amended policy;
- Review and approve by majority vote any proposed new or amended Policy;
- Interview, assess the qualifications of, and recommend to the Mayor candidates having appropriate qualifications for the positions of Superintendent, Chief Administrator, and Police Board member;
- Introduce and adopt a resolution of no confidence on the fitness of the Superintendent, Chief Administrator, or a Police Board member to hold their position;
- Before a City Council vote on the annual budget, prepare and submit to the Budget Director a detailed and factually supported budget submission, then review and, if warranted, recommend changes to the proposed Department budget appropriation; and
- Direct the Chief Administrator to investigate complaints of police misconduct consistent with COPA's defined jurisdiction.



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Once approved by City Council, the new Commission will begin its work by January 1, 2022, and be responsible for laying out the details of the District Council elections.

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