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CONTACT:

Mayor's Press Office

312-744-3334

press@cityofchicago.org

**MAYOR LORI E. LIGHTFOOT AND EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES FOR PUBLIC SAFETY
PASS PROPOSAL FOR CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT OF CHICAGO'S POLICE DEPARTMENT AND
ACCOUNTABILITY AGENCIES**

*Chicago's City Council approves legislation creating a historic civilian commission to oversee
the CPD, COPA, and the Police Board*

CHICAGO – Today, Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot and the Chicago City Council passed historic legislation to create a first-of-its-kind independent civilian oversight body to oversee the Chicago Police Department, the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA), and the Police Board. The passage of today's groundbreaking and transformative proposal represents a long-awaited milestone in Mayor Lightfoot's ongoing work to reform Chicago's Police Department into a national leader of constitutional policing.

"With the passage of this historic legislation, we have truly marked a significant milestone in our mission of bringing further transparency to our police department and its accountability agencies," said Mayor Lightfoot. "Before I even became Mayor, I promised on the campaign trail to pave a pathway for civilian oversight of the police, and today, I am proud to be able to deliver on that promise. I am grateful to all of the aldermen, community members, and other stakeholders who helped to get this groundbreaking proposal across the finish line and am beyond thrilled to give our residents further opportunities to hold those who are sworn to protect and serve them accountable."

This momentous legislation balances a range of interests and ensures that all relevant stakeholders' valued feedback was considered. Following years of important conversations with Aldermen, advocates, and experts and a deep commitment from the Mayor, City Council, and Chicago's communities ensured the final legislation was not only a workable solution but as impactful on police transparency and accountability as possible.

"This plan is part of a long-overdue and necessary step toward strengthening trust between police and the communities they proudly serve and protect," said Alderman Chris Taliaferro. "As a former police officer and Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, I am



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deeply honored to have played a role in this important process that was focused on bettering the lives of all Chicago residents.”

“It is vital to the success of both our City and our Police Department that community members are empowered with a voice in the policy, accountability, direction, and leadership of CPD and its accountability agencies,” said 48th Ward Alderman Harry Osterman. “This long overdue ordinance will allow civilians to enact serious positive changes within the current police accountability system, and to ensure that their needs are being met by those individuals who are sworn to protect them.”

The proposal adopted by City Council today was crafted with careful consideration given to the most effective and workable aspects of all past proposals for civilian oversight of Chicago’s public safety infrastructure. These proposals included the Grassroots Alliance for Police Accountability (GAPA), the Civilian Police Accountability Council (CPAC), and the Empowering People and Commentates for Public Safety (ECPS) proposals. Today’s legislation aims to meet all parties’ 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.

“Civilian Oversight will facilitate the necessary accountability between police and the communities they serve,” said Alderman Andre Vasquez. “Chicagoans who have been most impacted by Police misconduct will now have an equal opportunity to oversee that institution by running for office within their police district.”

“The agreement reached by all stakeholders that passed City Council today is in the best interest of all Chicago residents,” said Alderman Sophia King. “Empowering the community to engage in oversight of our police has the power to not only revolutionize but also galvanize our police force in Chicago.”

“The vote held today will go down as a historic moment for police accountability and reform in Chicago,” said Alderman Carlos Ramirez-Rosa. “I am grateful to everyone who came together to get this historic legislation passed and look forward to seeing Chicagoans from across the City become empowered to play an active role in holding their police officers to account.”

“Civilian oversight of the police is long overdue and urgently needed,” said Alderman Roderick Sawyer. “For the past five years, I have been proud to be a part of this landmark movement that will see Chicago’s residents empowered to play a pivotal role in re-establishing trust between the community and their police.”



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“This revolutionary new system of civilian oversight puts the best interest of residents first and will not only hold the police in Chicago more accountable but drastically change how they are overseen,” said Alderwoman Leslie Hairston. “This commission will allow for important changes in policing and reform and I am incredibly grateful for everyone who came to the table to make this happen.”

Beginning January 1 of 2022, the 7-member commission will be made up of Chicago residents but will not have any citizenship requirements or restrictions. This commission will have the powers to do the following:

- Assess performance of and set goals for the Superintendent, Chief Administrator, and Police Board President.
- Recommend to the Public Safety Inspector General to conduct research or audits on specific topics or issues, including emergent issues that, in the Commission’s judgment, are needed to support public confidence in the Department and related criminal justice practices. If the Commission issues such a recommendation in writing, the Public Safety Inspector General shall respond in writing within ten business days.
- Appoint the COPA Chief Administrator with the advice and consent of the City Council.
- Remove the COPA Chief Administrator.
- 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 CPD policies and practices of significance to the public.
- Collaborate with the CPD, COPA, and the Police Board in the development of new or amended Policy.
- Draft, review, and approve by majority vote any proposed new or amended Policy.
- By majority vote require the attendance of the Superintendent, the Public Safety Inspector General, the Chief Administrator, and the President of the Police Board, or their designees, at any regular or special meeting of the Commission in order to provide updates on matters as requested by the Commission, and to answer questions from the Commission and hear public comments.
- In the event of a vacancy, interview, assess the qualifications of, and recommend to the Mayor candidates having appropriate qualifications for the positions of Superintendent and Police Board member.
- Introduce and by two-thirds’ majority vote adopt a resolution of no confidence in the Superintendent or a Police Board member.



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- Before a City Council vote on the annual budget, review and, if warranted, recommend changes to the proposed CPD budget appropriation.
- Identify and recommend to the City Council ways to increase effectiveness and efficiency in the use of public safety resources.
- Identify and recommend to the City Council ways to ensure that Department resources are used appropriately, considering issues that other professionals could adequately address.
- Identify and recommend to the City Council preventative, proactive, community-based, and evidence-based solutions to violence.
- Engage in community outreach to obtain the perspectives of community members and Department employees on police-community relations, Department policies and practices, and the police accountability system.
- Maintain connections with representatives of disenfranchised communities and with other community groups throughout the City.
- Provide the CPD, Police Board, COPA, and Public Safety Inspector General with community feedback relevant to their operations received as a result of the Commission's public outreach activities.
- Oversee the newly created District Councils and delegate powers and duties to the District Councils at its discretion and consistent with applicable law.
- Publish reports as required by this Chapter, and report to the public about matters related to policing that concern all Chicago communities.
- Have access to information, documents, data, and records to carry out the Commission's powers and duties.

Starting in February 2023, District Council members will be elected by the residents of their districts through a consolidated primary election. The candidates in each District receiving the greatest, second greatest, and third greatest number of votes will assume office on the first Tuesday in May following their election. In all District Council elections, voters may vote for up to three candidates.

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