

Empowering Communities for Public Safety Ordinance Overview

What Will the Empowering Communities for Public Safety Ordinance Do?

The ordinance will fundamentally transform the relationship between the Chicago Police Department and the communities it serves, build trust, and increase public safety. **It will create (1) a Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability and (2) District Councils.**

What is the Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability?

The Community Commission will be a seven-member body, nominated by elected community members, selected by the Mayor, and confirmed by the City Council. Commissioners will serve four year terms. The Commission will have several key powers. The Commission will:

- **Play a central role in selecting and removing the Police Superintendent, COPA Chief Administrator, and Police Board members.** No one will be selected for one of these positions without the Commission's support.
 - When there is an opening for Police Superintendent and members of the Police Board, the Commission will develop a short list of candidates. The Mayor will choose from the Commission's list or request a new list. Once the Mayor makes a selection, the City Council will vote whether to confirm.
 - The Mayor will continue to have the power to remove the Superintendent and Police Board members. But if the Commission believes that one of those officials is not fit to do the job, the Commission can hold hearings and take a vote of no confidence in the official. That would trigger a City Council hearing and vote and a public response from the Mayor.
 - The Commission will select the COPA Chief Administrator, subject to City Council confirmation. The Commission, with City Council approval can also remove the COPA Chief for cause.
- **Set CPD, COPA, and Police Board policy.** This will ensure that policies are rooted in expert knowledge about best practices, and grounded in community values and needs.
 - The Commission will set high-level policy, but won't get involved in day-to-day operational decisions.
 - Most policy will be drafted by CPD, COPA, and the Police Board. The Commission can also draft policy.
 - Where there is disagreement about policy, there will be a process to build consensus and seek to resolve all differences.
 - Ultimately, the Commission may vote on any policy that is before it.
 - The Mayor may veto a Commission-enacted policy. The City Council may override a mayoral veto by a 2/3 vote.
 - The Commission cannot set policies covered by the consent decree.
 - The Commission will gather public input on policies, including by posting draft policies on its website and offering the public opportunities to comment.
- **Establish goals and evaluate progress for CPD, COPA, and the Police Board.** This will ensure that public safety leaders are truly accountable to the community.
 - At the beginning of each year, the Commission will set goals for the Superintendent and the Police Department, the Chief Administrator and COPA, and the Police Board President and the Police Board.
 - At the end of each year, the Commission will evaluate the progress that was made toward meeting the established goals.
- **Make CPD budget recommendations** before the City Council votes on the budget.
- **Identify, recommend, preventative, proactive, community-based, and evidence-based solutions to violence**, including non-policing alternatives.
- **Promote community engagement and transparency**
 - The Commission will hold monthly public meetings.

- The Commission will appoint a Noncitizen Advisory Council to ensure that the perspectives and experiences of Chicago residents who are not United States citizens are reflected and incorporated in the Commission's work.
- The Commission can require the Police Superintendent and other key officials to provide data and reports, and to appear in public forums to address questions and concerns.
- The Commission may publish public reports on matters of community concern.

What are District Councils?

District Councils will be created in each of the City's 22 police districts, and will be made of up three people elected in regular municipal elections. Members will serve four year terms. The District Councils will have several key roles:

- **Build stronger connections between the police and the community at the district level**, where the community is a true partner in making the neighborhood safer.
- **Hold monthly public meetings**, where residents can work with the police on local initiatives, and raise and work to address concerns about policing in the district.
- **Work with the community to get input on police department policies and practices.**
- **Work with the District Commander and community on new community policing initiatives.**
- **Ensure a channel of communication for regular community input to the Commission**, including by meeting citywide with all District Council members to propose priorities for the Commission, make policy recommendations, and identify policing trends and concerns.
- **Expand restorative justice practices in the district.**

Additional information about District Council and Commission members

- Anyone who satisfies the qualifications specified in the ordinance may apply to serve on the Commission.
- Each District Council will select one of its elected members to serve on a Nominating Committee to select candidates for the Community Commission.
- The Nominating Committee will review the applications and choose two candidates for each opening on the Commission, using the merit-based criteria specified in the ordinance.
- The Mayor will choose commissioners from the list provided by the Nominating Committee, or request a new list. Once the Mayor makes a selection, the City Council will vote whether to confirm. This process ensures that every member of the Community Commission will have the support of the District Councils, the Mayor, and the City Council.
- Most commissioners will be selected based on their expertise in areas like public safety, mental health, social work, civil rights, work with marginalized communities, and law. At least two of the seven commissioners must be experienced attorneys and at least one commissioner must be an experienced community organizer.
- Two commissioners must be between the ages of 18-24.
- Two commissioners must be from the South Side, two from the West Side, and two from the North Side. The seventh commissioner can come from anywhere in the City.
- Commissioners may be removed for cause by the Mayor or City Council.
- Commissioners will receive a stipend of \$12,000 and the president of the Commission will receive a stipend of \$15,000 per year, the same as Chicago Police Board members.
- District Council members will receive annual stipends of \$6,000.
- The first District Council elections will be held in February 2023.
- The Commission will be appointed in late 2023 or early 2024.
- Until the Commission is established following the first District Council elections, an interim Commission will be appointed. By December 1, 2021, the City Council will nominate 14 people to serve on an interim Commission. By January 1, 2022, the Mayor will choose 7 of the 14 to serve on the interim Commission.
- The Commission and District Councils will be supported by a full-time, professional staff.