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[remote or in person] Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability

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Agency: Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability

Date: April 25, 2024

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Takeaways

- Vote to Amend Associations Policy that bars CPD from working with not just “Criminal” organizations, but also “Biased” organizations (expands the definition of “criminal” to actors that engage in violent/discriminatory acts or hate speech).
- Dexter Reed murder is of high importance to community members as evidence is released and COPA continues investigation.
- Importance of allocating money to community organizations situated WITHIN said communities to fix systemic issues instead of relying on police.

Follow-Up Questions & Observations

- The amendment to the Associations Policy seems like a clear strategy by CCPSA to also make sure CPD officers’ ties to hate groups are also regulated and prohibited
- A question I have is what does the funding process look like for CVI organizations and why is it harder to get funding to intercommunal organizations already involved in relationship building within said communities?

Notes

Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability

Date/Time: Thursday, April 25th @ 6:33pm

Location: St. James Community Church

Number of attendees (not including officials): roughly 55 constituents

acronyms:

- [NAEFI](#) (National Alliance for the Empowerment of the Formerly Incarcerated)
- [CVI](#) (Community Violence Intervention) programs focus on individuals most at risk of being a victim of or committing an act of gun violence. CVI provides a public health approach to gun violence prevention, addressing the unique needs of communities where systemic racism, disinvestments, and trauma occur.
- [TASC](#) (Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities): Organization of “case managers, treatment professionals, and client advocates. We’re public policy analysts, service providers, and systems change consultants.” Provide services for people susceptible to chronic health conditions in places for high risk (ie. jail, court, prisons). Partner org with local community groups/efforts to aid in reentry, recovery, and facilitation of youth and family programs.

Panelists Present (Guest Speakers):

- Benny Lee (Age 69), [NAEFI](#): former gang leader and death row inmate, is now one of the top trainers and administrators in the field of social service / community liaison and reentry specialist for [TASC](#), he prepares formerly incarcerated folks for successful transitions into community.
 - disgruntled with the meeting location being moved, and states that people are getting grants to colonize their communities while people from the south side organizing for decades dont get access to grants
- Terry Thomas (Age 55) Community Violence Interpreter, formerly incarcerated 15.5 years in the carceral system / peace treaty with Fred Hampton Jr / calls the situation “[Samson and Goliath](#).” Advocates for resources to stop community violence and advocates for outside actors to get out of his communities.
- Fred Waller, [CPD Deputy Director](#) to the Superintendent’s Office

[CCPSA Members](#):

- Interim President: Anthony Driver, Jr
- Rev. Dr. Beth L Brown
- Oswaldo Gomez
- Yvette Loizon
- Clifford (Cliff) M Nellis
- Remel Terry
- Isaac Troncoso

[0:00:56]

Public Comment Begins @ 6:33pm:

- [14th District Council Member David Orlikoff](#):
 - Calls for ending pretextual traffic stops / resources should not be allocated to accosting black community members /another act of stop-and-frisk / traffic enforcement increase has not led to decrease in traffic violence / black drivers are 6x more likely to be pulled over and latine people 2x likely

[0:04:36]

- Matthew Beesley (Unit 011 - District 011);
 - Chicago Police Officer
 - Says that calling the stops pretextual is unjust
 - Shotspotter should be brought back

[0:07:05]

- [5th District Council Member Robert Mckay](#):
 - Meeting on Monday about consent decree
<https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/police-reform/home/consent-decree.html>
 - Federal monitors have been 100% compliant, but he refutes that

[0:10:45]

- Frank Chapman (CAARPR President):
 - calls for police officers to be fired as part of [CAARPR](#) demands

[0:12:58]

- Vondale Singleton (Founder of CHAMPS Mentoring):
 - Social Emotional Health and Youth Leader
<https://www.champsmentoring.com/who-we-are/staff/>
 - Violence Prevention Focus for youth / mentions violence against young children /
 - doing a march on the westside of Chicago with an assembling of young teens and youth (June 8th)

[0:14:40]

- Citizen from the 4th District:
 - disgruntled by lack of expediency of the process of accountability and transparency with the police & expressed community having little to no connection to 4th district police commander; asks committee to get commander in talks with community

[0:17:10]

- Member of [CAARPR](#):
 - Expresses appreciation for Cmr. Terry
 - Considers Cmr. Brown and Cmr. Nellis to be outsiders to his community and asks why they were not elected
 - Calls the killing of black men “a pandemic”

[0:19:10]

- Christopher Ramos, [Access Living](#) (Disability centered Organization):
 - Latinx immigration community organizer

- Mentions people with disabilities are often misunderstood during traffic stops leading to violence by CPD.
- Calls for a decrease in police interactions with civilians

[0:21:05]

- Tywon Sims (activist)

[0:23:35]

- Merawi Gerima, (Activist & Organizer w/ CAARPR):
 - mentions 44 combined complaints between officers involved in the Dexter Reed killing. calls for justice in the conversations between CCPSA and the community.

[0:27:45]

- [Bella BAHHS](#), Revolutionary Arts Activist:
 - Demand: end pretextual traffic stops and “click-it-or-ticket” / “it’s this is not about individual officers [...] it’s this is about justice for all of us.”
 - Not wearing a seatbelt should not lead to armed confrontation

[0:29:55]

- Community Member:
 - says that officers need more fairness directed toward them
 - (crowd boos speaker)

[0:32:30]

- Community member:
 - Comments on Dexter Reed’s murder:
 - there’s no such thing as a pretextual stop - only constitutional or unconstitutional
 - expresses that the cops violated his civil rights because there’s no way they could see the seatbelt.
 - says her family member who was a veteran said when someone points a gun at you, that means they are going to shoot - that goes for the police that killed Dexter Reed
 - Public Comment ends at 7:07pm

Minutes from March 21st meeting of the Commission were approved unanimously.

Vote on the Amended Associations Policy:

- Introduced by: CPD
- Submitted to: CCPSA
- Date of Introduction: January 13, 2023
- Description: Amends the [Prohibition on Associations with Criminal Organizations Order \(G08-03\)](#) by adding to the definition of “criminal organization” to include groups that practice or support terrorism and groups that practice or support illegal discrimination and prejudice; expands on the list of prohibited activities with criminal organizations; reorganizes the distribution of responsibilities for implementing the Order.

- Cmr. Loisson explains to Cmr. Nellis why the amendment to the language was provided and the inclusion of the word “Biased”
- Adoption of the Amendment takes place unanimously @ 7:14pm

[0:42:00]

Next Agenda Item - Panel Discussing Dexter Reed Investigation

- Cmr. Terry discusses [Death of Dexter Reed](#) and [COPA](#)'s role in investigating the police officer's illegal killing of him. CCPSA's job is to help COPA complete its fair and objective investigation (which can take a year or more). Describes the process of COPA investigations, including the interviews with each office involved. Mentions people should not call COPA's investigation unfair or not objective, it makes the investigation more difficult.
- President Driver mentions that the superintendent and CCPSA does not have the power to fire officers for police misconduct, and the superintendent cannot fire an officer until COPA finishes the investigation.

[0:47:15] - After some spotty connection, the microphones [stopped working](#) entirely at this point. It took until the next timestamp (below) to be able to hear participants on Vimeo (Otter transcription is lacking in this timeframe as well).

- Commission will assess [what the new superintendent](#) will do in their first month of office assessing community safety with regards to police
- [Calls for community to have patience in the process and outlines transparency of committee members roles and COPA's role](#)

[0:52:30]

- Panelist - Deputy Director Fred Waller:
 - CPD partnering with CVI agencies and outside groups (interrupted by mic technical difficulties) acknowledged the history of CVI not trusting CPD because of their systemic violence.
 - training of CVI workers and developing workshops for them so they can better interact with community
 - mentions this should help in reducing crime in many communities

[0:56:32]

Panelists are invited up by President Driver @ 7:29pm

1:05:10]

- Driver asks Panelist Thomas how important it is for young people to be in contact with elders and older generations of incarcerated folk.
 - talks about the importance of having prior, face-to-face conversations w/ young men and families / mentioned himself being framed by CPD and being sentenced to 30 years to life in prison for a crime he did not commit and relaying that story to the youth is important (tells youth they can be in a better situation) / iterates that importance of honesty regarding how hard the process of healing looks like w/ young men / called Dexter Reed's

pretextual stop a “Terry Stop” modeled after the [Terry vs Ohio Supreme Court Decision \(1968\)](#) that found it constitutional for US Law Enforcement to stop & frisk someone of “reasonable” suspicion / says other organizations came into his communities and could not stop violence because they lack the personal relationships needed for community uplifting.

[1:10:50]

- President Driver asks Lee what he does with the Department of Corrections and Returning Citizens:
 - Lee responds saying there's no such thing as a Black community ; says America [makes up](#) 5% of the world's population but 25% of prison population is concentrated in this nation / more people woke up in house arrest than the population of people in the Illinois prison system / says disabled, gay, and women are protected classes, but convicted felons are not protected / outlines the reasons for the creation of 13th and 14th amendment and how convicted felons are not guaranteed equal protections under the law / his organization (National Alliance for the Empowerment of the Formerly Incarcerated) trains people facing reentry and the challenges they face when having to learn to house, clean, cloth, and survive in a society that never taught them what those skills were / invested in education of these populations / advocates to invest money in the community, specifically people FROM the community / says we don't have neighborhoods, because people are not neighbors anymore.

[1:20:50]

- Cmr. Nellis asks what current CPD practices and policies should be improved or changed:
 - Terry says that there's no such thing as good or bad cops when good cops sign onto fudged police reports - that makes them corrupt cops. Says police officers committing violence should be fired.
 - Panelist Lee says “Where are the Black police officers?”
 - Talks about [Violence Interrupters](#) having to be on social media because social media can build war between people a lot faster than just face-to-face community conversation - there must be a triad approach geared around deescalation. Mentions there needs to be non-violent education in communities so deescalation and violence interrupting doesn't happen in vain.

[1:29:20]

- Cmr. Brown asks if CPD and CVI organizations relationships have made the community better:
 - Panelist Lee says CVI agencies, who he calls “overseers,” are getting the majority of funds and says there's a bias in the allocation of funding, barring people that show an outward appearance of being from “the hood” from getting money needed to help their communities

- Panelist Terry says there needs to be communal effort to skill share with youth and people in prisons so that they become entrepreneurs and be able to walk a way with a way to sustain themselves.

[1:35:55]

- Cmr. Gomez asks how important generational communication with each other, even when it comes to calling police, is?
 - Panelist Lee: Mentions the importance of peace circles and pulling out the visions of young people so they can motivate themselves to change - emphasis on autonomy.

[1:42:55]

- Panelist Terry: Develop ecosystems around the city to redirect displaced aggression within young black/brown men.

[1:52:35]

- Consider addin that President Driver offered Interim Director Fred Waller the opportunity to speak, because his other turns at the mic were beset by technical difficulties. Waller made a brief statement about CVI and its use & perception by different stakeholders.

[1:55:00]

- Cmr. Nellis gives high praises to COPA and outlines CCPSA's abilities. Also gives a brief statement in response to public comment.

[2:00:10]

Meeting adjourns @ 8:33pm

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