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Independent Monitor Files Special Report Regarding the City of Chicago's and the Chicago Police Department's Responses to Protests and Unrest under the Consent Decree

CHICAGO – Independent Monitor Maggie Hickey filed the Independent Monitoring Team's (IMT's) [*Special Report: The City of Chicago's and the Chicago Police Department's Responses to Protests and Unrest under the Consent Decree \(May 2020 – November 2020\)*](#). The report provides (1) a summary of major events; (2) an analysis of the City's and the CPD's ongoing efforts and challenges; and (3) corresponding recommendations for how the City and the CPD can simultaneously move toward compliance under the Consent Decree and better prepare for responding to protests and unrest. See [IMT Recommendations](#), below.

In short, the City, like many other cities, was unprepared for the level of sustained protests and unrest downtown and throughout its neighborhoods, which began after the murder of George Floyd on May 25, 2020. Even if the City and the CPD had predicted the level of protests and unrest after the death of George Floyd on May 25, 2020, the City and the CPD did not have the policies, reporting practices, training, equipment, data analysis, community engagement, or inter-agency coordination required to respond effectively.

While the City and the CPD have made deliberate efforts to improve responses to protests and any potential unrest since May of last year, more work is necessary. Independent Monitor Maggie Hickey said, "The City and CPD must take immediate, deliberate, and transparent efforts—in compliance with the Consent Decree—to better protect, serve, and be accountable to the people of Chicago and all communities. Their efforts must be transparent to remedy the trust that was harmed and to ensure that, in improving their ability to respond, the City and the CPD do not ignore either constitutional policing or concerns about over-policing and over-militarized responses that inspired so many people to take to the streets."

This review has and will continue to inform our recommendations and assessments for the City's and the CPD policies, trainings, supervision, and practices under the Consent Decree. Moving forward, the IMT will continue to monitor the City's and the CPD's compliance with the Consent Decree. Our next Independent Monitoring Report, the fourth, will cover the City's and the CPD's compliance efforts through the fourth reporting period, June 30, 2021.

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IMT's Recommendations

Planning and Preparation

- Expand planning operations across all internal and external entities and partners by, among others, (1) establishing a multi-facet planning team, (2) modifying current planning template, and (3) conducting tabletop exercises for command personnel (¶704)
- Enhance intelligence gathering and dissemination capabilities by, among other things, (1) tracking national and international events that may impact Chicago, (2) improving social-media engagement, (3) conducting formal meetings with protest organizers and community stakeholders, and (4) engaging with Chicago's communities, stakeholders, and experts regarding the City's and the CPD's policing efforts and strategies (¶46)
- Continue New Forms of Community Engagement by, among other things, (1) clearly communicating time, place and manner restrictions; (2) conducting community-sentiment assessments; (3) engaging with community review of and comment on policies and training; (4) creating and maintaining community and business safety plans; (5) improving victim services (¶¶10, 49, 52, 115, 160, 511, 546)
- Create, train, and equip specialized Mobile Field Force Teams, with certified members, across all CPD areas (¶¶265–68)
- Better prepare for department-wide officer wellness and support,

including providing and tracking body-worn cameras, protective equipment, transportation, hydration, food, facilities, and relief (¶¶, 236–41, 381–86)

- Conduct a feasibility study regarding the acquisition, prioritization, allocation, and tracking of resources for officer wellness and responding to protests and unrest (¶¶377, 379)

Policies

- Update and Develop Standard Operating Procedures for initiating Emergency Operations Center and Forward Command Posts, establishing clear roles and responsibilities for all levels of command (¶¶341–46, 354)
- Update and develop CPD policies, with an enhanced focus on (1) Use of Force, including mass arrests (¶¶153, 158–216, 218–19, 243–48, and 509), (2) First Amendment-related policies (¶208), (3) core policing values regarding ethical policing practices and a commitment to fair, unbiased and respectful interactions (¶¶54, 152, and 163); and (4) accountability (¶¶626, *et al.*)

Training

- Develop training programs for leadership, commanders, and supervisors as teams on Mobile Field Force operations and rules of engagement (¶¶265–68)
- Provide adequate training for all officers on new or revised policies, including use of force, de-escalation, batons, and personal OC spray (¶¶265–68)

- Provide refresher training on (1) the people's right to record officers (¶58), (2) uniform requirements (¶347, 351, 433), (3) respectful interactions (¶52, 54, 56), (4) providing and requesting medical aid (¶173), and (5) arrestee rights (¶¶30–31, 35, 71)

Accountability and Transparency

- Improve reporting and documentation on uses of force, arrest, deployments, dispersals, officer wellness and safety, all injuries, and use of OC spray (¶566–67, 438, 528, 567, 581–82)
- Increase transparency regarding discipline, including decisions to relieve or not relieve officers of police powers (¶567)
- Address personnel needs across accountability systems, including COPA investigators, CPD Force Review Division, BIA, and CPD supervisor ratios (¶¶343, 356, 521, 575, 700)
- Allocate sufficient City and CPD resources to review and analyze data, including tagging and auditing body-worn-camera video footage (¶¶352–53, 576, 700)
- Continue to review and increase methods of transparency with Chicago's communities, regarding crime-reduction strategies, officer-involved shootings, and other police activities (¶¶10, 12, 17, 54, 334)
- Create After Action procedures—including body-worn camera review and opportunities for community engagement—after each operations plan (¶¶8–10, 347–51)

The CPD should also address the City of Chicago Office of the Inspector General's [findings](#): (1) Address breakdowns in mass-arrest processes, (2) Improve use-of-force reporting, and (3) Fill gaps in policies