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Independent Monitor Files
Special Report: Focus Groups with Black and Latino Men, Ages 18–35
(conducted December 2020 – June 2021).

CHICAGO – Independent Monitor Maggie Hickey filed a [Special Report](#) with Judge Robert M. Dow, Jr. in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, detailing the results of community focus groups. The report presents results from 32 community focus groups from December 2020 to June 2021 with Black and Latino men in Chicago between 18–35 years old. The focus groups were asked about the nature of the interactions young Black and Latino men have with the Chicago Police Department (CPD).

This report builds on some of the key findings from the Independent Monitor’s first citywide, representative survey: *Special Report: Community Survey Report (November 2019 – February 2020)* (the *2020 IMT Community Survey*). See Consent Decree ¶¶ 645–51. Specifically, the focus group results provide a qualitative complement to the concerning findings of the *2020 IMT Community Survey*, which identified that young Black and Latino men in Chicago reported having the highest frequency of contact with police and the most negative perception of police and lowest levels of trust in police.

Overall, the feedback from the participants was consistent with the *2020 IMT Community Survey*: we observed, for example, that participants reported that most of their police interactions were negative experiences, even when they end without any enforcement actions. Some participants also provided recommendations on how the CPD could improve relationships in their neighborhoods, including the need for internal police reform, accountability, recruitment, improved training, and increased quality and quantity of non-enforcement or social engagement with communities.

Independent Monitor Hickey notes, *“This Focus Group Report is consistent with community feedback—including the representative 2020 IMT Community Survey—that many young Black and Latino men in Chicago continue to report that they do not experience procedural justice during their interactions with the CPD. We have consistently heard that young Black and Latino men want to be treated with dignity and respect; to be given a chance to be heard during encounters; and for officers to make decisions fairly and transparently, conveying goodwill and trustworthiness.”*

The Consent Decree provides the framework for the City of Chicago and the CPD to prioritize building and maintaining community trust, confidence, and partnerships for short and long-term community and officer safety. Independent Monitor Hickey continues to stress the importance of prioritizing *both* constitutional and effective policing: *“As required by the Consent Decree, the CPD must continue to provide sufficient resources toward building and maintaining trust and police legitimacy. The IMT will continue to monitor community trust in the CPD—including feedback from those most likely to interact with the CPD—until the City and the CPD can demonstrate full and effective compliance with the Consent Decree.”*