

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION

4	STATE OF ILLINOIS,)	
5	Plaintiff,)	Docket No. 17 C 6260
6	vs.)	
7	CITY OF CHICAGO,)	Chicago, Illinois
8	Defendant.)	November 29, 2022 10:00 a.m.

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS - Hearing
BEFORE THE HONORABLE CHIEF JUDGE REBECCA R. PALLMEYER and
HONORABLE ROBERT M. DOW, JR.

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DR. LAURA CANARD
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1 (The following proceedings were had in open court:)

2 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Good morning, ladies and
3 gentlemen. Welcome to the United States District Court.

4 My name is Rebecca Pallmeyer. I am the judge to
5 whom this case is going to be assigned or is effectively
6 assigned now.

7 Together with me this morning is my colleague
8 Judge Dow, whom, as you know, has been monitoring -- has been
9 supervising the consent decree now for some time.

10 Judge Dow will be leaving our court, at least to
11 some degree, to take a new position in Washington. That's
12 the reason for the transfer of this case from him to another
13 judge in the court, and that judge is me.

14 I want you to know that I have reviewed many of the
15 materials that were filed in this case, but, of course, do
16 not have the familiarity with it that Judge Dow had and,
17 perhaps, that some of you already have in greater depth than
18 I have. But it is my determination to supervise it
19 effectively and actively, and I do intend to do my best to be
20 as up to speed as I can be in the next several weeks.

21 I have met by video with lawyers -- many of the
22 lawyers involved in the case, but today is the first time
23 that I am actually presiding in a hearing. And I am anxious
24 to hear from all of you, those of you who are scheduled to be
25 heard this morning. I have the schedule here, and I will be

1 making every effort to keep you on time.

2 Judge Dow, did you want to make a few comments?

3 JUDGE DOW: Yes. Sure. Thank you.

4 Good morning, everybody.

5 I do want to thank Chief Judge Pallmeyer for
6 inviting me to be included in today's proceeding, because
7 this case has been transferred. I am an interloper here.

8 I do want to say that you all are in great hands.
9 She is a wonderful judge and a wonderful leader of this
10 court. We have all been so fortunate to have her as our
11 chief through the pandemic and everything else. I am
12 thrilled that she will be working with you all on what is to
13 come here.

14 It has been my great privilege to have this case on
15 my docket since 2017 and to work with all of you since
16 February 2019 on trying to implement what is a massive,
17 massive undertaking.

18 It has been the most challenging, the most vexing,
19 the most time-consuming, and, in many ways, the most
20 rewarding case that I have had in my 15 years on the bench.
21 This is the case that I am going to miss the most, for sure.

22 I just want to thank all of you. I'm looking at
23 all of these familiar faces. Many of you, I have spent more
24 hours than I could ever imagine.

25 The thing about this case is, it is an incredibly

1 judge-intensive case. Many of our cases, our law clerks do a
2 lot of the work on. In this case, it has all been judge
3 work, and I did warn the chief that that's where this goes.

4 But it's been immensely rewarding. And as I look
5 at all of you, I consider you all great colleagues to work
6 with, and this is the case I am saddest about leaving. But
7 you are in great hands, and I thank you all.

8 I am really happy today that we can be here in
9 person. As Maggie knows, we have been planning this for a
10 long time, and we finally felt today was -- this time period
11 was appropriate to bring everybody in.

12 I'm thrilled that we have got more than 50 people
13 on the agenda today. This is a great opportunity for us to
14 hear from the community; and, of course, that's hugely
15 important in this whole process.

16 So thank you all for working with me. I will miss
17 you all. I will be lurking.

18 I have told my colleague, the Chief, and the
19 monitor, they can always call for my recollections of what
20 happened in the past. There are very few of us who have been
21 here from the beginning. I'm looking at a couple of you
22 right now, but not too many.

23 So I will be available, and I thank you all.

24 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: All right. Thank you,
25 Judge Dow.

1 Our monitor, Maggie Hickey, is with us this morning
2 and will be making some opening remarks as well.

3 MS. HICKEY: Good morning. I will take off my
4 mask. Sorry.

5 Good morning, Judge Dow and Judge Pallmeyer,
6 counsel, and members of the public.

7 My name is Maggie Hickey. I'm the independent
8 monitor.

9 I'm also joined by two members of my team,
10 Anthony-Ray Sepúlveda and Dr. Laura Canard, who is graciously
11 sitting in the attorney room guarding everyone's laptops so
12 the rest of the people could be here. And she is going to be
13 dialing in by phone.

14 I want to start by thanking the community members
15 for coming today and for taking time from their schedules to
16 express their opinions and thoughts about the City's and
17 CPD's compliance with the consent decree.

18 This is the first of what we intend to be quarterly
19 public hearings, with two meetings a year, including
20 community speakers.

21 One of the community listening meetings will be
22 hosted virtually, and people will be able to keep their
23 laptops at their homes, and another will be in person.

24 This is the first time the community members have
25 had an opportunity to join the Court in person regarding the

1 consent decree since the pandemic. Today is about hearing
2 from our communities, and for that reason, I will leave my
3 remarks brief.

4 Judge Dow, when you approved the consent decree in
5 January 2019, you acknowledged that the consent decree would
6 not be an easy process. And, boy, you were right. It has
7 not been an easy process. But Chicago is no longer at the
8 starting line.

9 By December 31st, 2022, the end of the fifth
10 reporting period, the City of Chicago, the CPD, and other
11 relevant City entities reached preliminary compliance with
12 over 70 percent of the monitorable paragraphs under the
13 consent decree. Many of these achievements include
14 substantial updates to policies, procedures, and other
15 written guidance.

16 While this also means that the City and its
17 entities must still achieve secondary and full compliance
18 with the majority of the monitorable paragraphs, if properly
19 supported, the existing compliance levels that they currently
20 have will be the foundations for the City to ultimately
21 achieve full and effective compliance with the consent
22 decree.

23 The City of Chicago and the CPD have come a far
24 way, but they also have a very long way to go, and we must
25 all press on.

1 Thank you, Judge Dow, for your leadership and
2 commitment to the consent decree and Chicago. It's been my
3 privilege to learn from and work with you. The silver lining
4 is that you are leaving this case in the very capable hands
5 of Chief Judge Pallmeyer.

6 Judge Pallmeyer, as you take over this case, the
7 independent monitoring team has filed five monitoring
8 reports, which are posted on our website,
9 cpdmonitoringteam.com, for everyone else's education.

10 Our sixth monitoring report, which covers the first
11 six months of this year, will be publicly filed before the
12 end of this year.

13 We also recently filed our monitoring plan for year
14 four, where we identified several interrelated priorities
15 that reflect the City's and the CPD's current challenges
16 toward achieving compliance with the consent decree. They
17 include staffing, resources, community, engagement, and
18 partial policing, and effective policing.

19 Also included is officer wellness and efficient
20 data collection, management, and analysis.

21 The consent decree requires the City and the CPD to
22 demonstrate constitutional policing practices that respect
23 the rights of all the people of Chicago, while building trust
24 between officers and the communities they serve and promoting
25 community and officer safety.

1 The consent decree requires the CPD and its
2 officers to reduce crime while being community partners,
3 building, maintaining, and rigorously protecting community
4 trust and confidence. To do this, the CPD must ensure that
5 the input of the community is sought, respected, and
6 incorporated into its procedures for developing policy,
7 training, and operations.

8 But reduced staffing has slowed the City's and the
9 CPD's ability to engage with the Chicago communities,
10 demonstrate compliance with the consent decree, and promote
11 trust and officer wellness.

12 For officers to meet the high standards of the CPD,
13 of the consent decree, and of the Chicago communities,
14 officers must have sufficient resources and support.

15 Implementing reform across the consent decree,
16 including reforms related to community policing, impartial
17 policing, crisis intervention, use of force, training,
18 supervision, and accountability requires healthy and
19 effective CPD officers.

20 Officers require support to perform their
21 high-stress jobs, and the consent decree requires the City
22 and the CPD to provide increased and sustained levels of
23 support for their officers.

24 Finally, to reach full and effective compliance
25 with the consent decree, the City and the CPD must make

1 significant investments and improvements in data collection,
2 management, and assessments. This will enable the CPD to
3 identify new and existing challenges and implement
4 corresponding data-driven solutions. These improvements will
5 pay dividends in the years to come and are simply necessary
6 for the City and CPD to consistently provide the
7 accountability and transparency that the Chicago communities
8 deserve.

9 Judge Dow, we are grateful that the consent decree
10 started under your guidance, and we wish you the best as you
11 head to Washington.

12 Judge Pallmeyer, as Judge Dow acknowledged in 2019,
13 it has taken a long time to get to the conditions that led to
14 the consent decree, and it will take a long time to get out
15 of it. He has challenged us with all of -- with his poignant
16 words back in 2019, "Let us begin." And begin we did. And
17 we are in the middle of our work. And it's clear that change
18 is difficult. But nevertheless, we press on. It's what the
19 Chicago communities expect and deserve.

20 Judge Pallmeyer, we look forward to crossing that
21 finish line under your guidance.

22 Thank you.

23 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, Ms. Hickey.

24 We are doing well on our time frame. I think next
25 on our agenda is that we will hear from Jennifer Bagby of the

1 City of Chicago for some opening remarks as well, and that
2 would be followed by Matt Richards.

3 MS. BAGBY: Good morning.

4 My name is Jennifer Bagby, and I am a deputy
5 corporation counsel for public safety reform in the City of
6 Chicago Department of Law.

7 I, along with Allan Slagel, Max Frazier, and Arthur
8 Haynes represent the City of Chicago in the consent decree
9 matter. And we are happy to be here today to update the
10 Court and the public on the City's consent decree progress.

11 I am also joined by Matt Richards, the deputy
12 commissioner for behavioral health for the Chicago Department
13 of Public Health, as well as Jessica Gall-Adediran, first
14 deputy mayor for public safety.

15 Deputy Commissioner Richards will be providing you
16 with an update on the work that is being done between the
17 Department of Public Health and the Chicago Police
18 Department.

19 Also here today to hear the comments from the
20 Court, the Attorney General's office, and the community are
21 members of the Chicago Police Department, who are involved in
22 the important work of reform.

23 We have Chief Angel Navalez of the Office of
24 Constitutional Policing and Reform.

25 We have Lieutenant Michael Kapustianyuk, the

1 commanding officer of the Research and Development Division.

2 We have Commander Ralph Cruz of the training
3 support group.

4 And, Lieutenant John Benigno, commanding officer of
5 the Training Support Group, Instructional Design, and Quality
6 Control Section.

7 In addition to providing an update to the Court and
8 to the public, it is also important to note the tremendous
9 amount of work that Judge Dow has put into this -- into
10 facilitating both the process of police reform in the city of
11 Chicago and the progress on the consent decree since this
12 process began in 2017.

13 We are grateful for his time and attention and
14 involvement in moving reform forward. We congratulate him on
15 his new role, and we welcome Judge Pallmeyer to the continued
16 work ahead.

17 On January 31st of 2019, when Judge Dow approved
18 the consent decree, agreed upon by the City and the State of
19 Illinois, he ended his written opinion with, "Let us begin."
20 It's obviously a very popular quote today. What began then
21 and continues today is the important and deliberative work of
22 reform.

23 Reform takes hard work, and it takes time. Too
24 often people remark that it isn't happening fast enough. But
25 it is important to remember that the work of reform is not

1 about quickly complying with the paragraphs in the consent
2 decree as if checking off items on a to-do list. Rather, the
3 work of reform involves doing the long, hard work of building
4 lasting change that will endure long after the consent decree
5 is over.

6 As Judge Dow has frequently remarked to all
7 involved, you can do things quickly or correctly, but rarely
8 both. The City has been and continues to be committed to
9 this process and to the necessary hard work of reform to
10 ensure lasting change for the city of Chicago.

11 The work of reform is being carried out by
12 hardworking women and men across many aspects of the city,
13 dedicated employees of numerous City departments, including
14 the Office of Emergency Management and Communication, the
15 Civilian Office of Police Accountability, the Office of
16 Public Safety Administration, the Department of Human
17 Resources, the Office of the Inspector General, the police
18 board, the mayor's office, the law department, and both
19 civilian and sworn members of the Chicago Police Department.

20 Most of these City employees are doing the work of
21 reform while carrying out their other duties and
22 responsibilities to the citizens of Chicago.

23 Since this process began, approximately
24 300,000 pages of documents have been produced by the City.
25 Over 80 Chicago Police Department policies have been newly

1 written or revised, and countless trainings have been revised
2 or developed, with CPD members receiving more than 1 million
3 hours of training since the entry of the consent decree.

4 Additionally, the City estimates that in the
5 monitor's next report, the City will have achieved some level
6 of compliance with approximately 78 percent of all
7 monitorable paragraphs of the consent decree.

8 This hard work is being done not only within each
9 of these City divisions and departments but collaboratively,
10 between many different City agencies and departments.

11 One such area of collaboration is between the
12 Department of Public Health and the police department. And
13 here to give you an overview of that important work is Deputy
14 Commissioner for Behavioral Health Matt Richards.

15 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Mr. Richards, good morning.
16 You are with the Chicago Department of Public
17 Health.

18 MR. RICHARDS: Yes, Judge.

19 Good morning, Judge Dow.

20 Good morning, Judge Pallmeyer.

21 Good morning to the public.

22 My name is Matt Richards. I'm the Deputy
23 Commissioner for Behavioral Health at the Chicago Department
24 of Public Health. I'm a licensed clinical social worker.

25 I am going to be giving the Court an update on two

1 sets of programs that are responsive to concerns articulated
2 in the consent decree related to crisis intervention.

3 I am going to be talking about alternate response
4 programs, and I am going to be talking about diversions.

5 So in November of 2019, Mayor Lightfoot accepted
6 33 recommendations that were generated by her Mental Health
7 Advisory Board related to the ways in which the City and our
8 crisis response systems interface with persons who are
9 experiencing a crisis, typically related to mental health,
10 substance use, or homelessness.

11 One of those recommendations was to generate new
12 programs that integrate new types of professionals into the
13 911 response system.

14 In September of 2021, we launched what is called
15 CARE, Crisis Assistance Response and Engagement. This is a
16 program that integrates mental health professionals from the
17 Chicago Department of Public Health into the 911 call center
18 floor and also into 911 response teams.

19 We have launched teams in three distinct regions of
20 the city -- on the north side, the southwest side, and the
21 south side -- with one team pending implementation in
22 January of 2023 on the west side.

23 Approximately one year into that implementation
24 what we have seen is, we have responded to over --
25 approaching 500 calls -- 911 calls -- with no arrests; very

1 minimal use of force, less than 1 percent. We have been able
2 to respond and resolve calls in about two-thirds of cases,
3 with the remaining third of cases being inability to locate
4 the person in crisis from the 911 call.

5 We have shown that calls can be very safely
6 resolved for the patient and for the responder moving toward
7 a health-first model that does not primarily rely on police
8 officers.

9 As we move into year two, the scope of that work is
10 really focused on scale. We want to be adding a second shift
11 to the program. It's currently operating one shift. And
12 then we want to expand the number of community areas that are
13 benefitting from the program, which we anticipate doing in
14 2023.

15 We are also moving toward our mental health
16 professionals in the 911 call center being able to speak
17 directly to callers. You will hear this referred to as
18 clinicians being trunked into calls.

19 So if someone experiences, for instance, a suicide
20 crisis, we are in the process of developing protocols by
21 which that person could speak to a clinician on the call
22 center floor to try to resolve the call over the phone,
23 precluding the need for a crisis response in person.

24 I also want to be able to speak to you about
25 diversions.

1 So when we talk about diversion, we are talking
2 about programs that try to direct a person towards community
3 resources or treatment that is responsive to their health and
4 social needs and away from the court system or criminal
5 justice system.

6 We have one project that is already well into
7 implementation. That's the narcotics arrest diversion
8 program, which is one of the largest narcotics arrest
9 diversion programs in the United States. We have diverted
10 over 1,000 individuals since implementation in 2018.

11 What we have seen are both considerable benefit to
12 patients -- over half of patients engaged in treatment at 30
13 days -- and over 70 percent reduction in rearrest rate for
14 any reason over time.

15 So we see this as a very promising intervention
16 that shows that you can both improve community safety,
17 improve outcomes for patients.

18 And our task as we move forward is scale. We need
19 to continue to scale this program. It is active in all
20 police districts. We need to ensure that all of our officers
21 understand the order related to this project and that any
22 eligible patient is being considered for it.

23 In 2023, there is two additional diversion programs
24 that we are moving towards implementation, and, Judge, I
25 wanted you to be aware of those.

1 The first one is a sobering center. So this is a
2 diversionary initiative for persons who have alcohol use
3 disorder or are otherwise experiencing acute intoxication.
4 We are working with Region 11, our EMS medical oversight, and
5 the IDPH EMS division to develop this model. And we are
6 looking to implement it in the coming year.

7 The last diversionary intervention is something
8 called stabilization housing. So this is a diversionary
9 initiative for people living with untreated serious mental
10 illness, substance use disorders, and homelessness. This
11 program will divert persons who are cycling across the
12 911 system, the homeless services system, and the emergency
13 department system into stabilization housing with their own
14 living unit, where they will receive primary care, substance
15 use treatment, and psychiatric care on-site, with the intent
16 of reducing preventible law enforcement contact and improving
17 health outcomes for those patients over time.

18 So we look forward to implementing that
19 intervention in the coming year.

20 And I thank you for the opportunity to speak this
21 morning.

22 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: One question I have,
23 Mr. Richards.

24 Of the 500 calls that you were able to handle
25 without arrests or use of force, what proportion does that

1 represent of the overall 911 calls that are made?

2 MR. RICHARDS: Within the districts that it was
3 implemented?

4 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Yes.

5 MR. RICHARDS: I think it's -- I want to be able to
6 get you the exact number. I think it's approximating 10 to
7 15 percent.

8 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: All right.

9 And you also mentioned your desire to expand the
10 program to the west side as well.

11 MR. RICHARDS: Yes, ma'am.

12 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: With respect to the 500, do
13 you have a sense that staffing shortages would have -- the
14 amelioration of shortages would have resulted in a higher
15 number than those 500?

16 MR. RICHARDS: I don't -- we have kept data on our
17 staffing levels, which we could certainly share with the
18 Court if you would like to see it in terms of the number of
19 times the teams have been down due to staffing shortages.

20 I think the big opportunity in year two is
21 expanding call eligibility criteria. That's really been -- I
22 think the limiting factor is, we chose a very conservative
23 set of criteria in year one to prove safety and feasibility.
24 And we are currently finalizing a plan to expand call
25 eligibility criteria in year two, where we would be taking on

1 calls that are higher risk, both from a safety perspective
2 and a medical perspective.

3 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Do you have other
4 questions, Judge Dow?

5 JUDGE DOW: No. Thank you.

6 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: All right. Thank you very
7 much, Mr. Richards.

8 I think the next scheduled speaker is Mary Grieb of
9 the office of the Illinois Attorney General.

10 Ms. Grieb.

11 MS. GRIEB: Good morning, Chief Judge Pallmeyer,
12 Judge Dow, Monitor Hickey, and members of the community in
13 the courtroom and listening in via phone today.

14 We thank the Court and the independent monitor for
15 hosting this public hearing, and we thank everyone who has
16 registered to speak today or submitted written comments.

17 Our team of attorneys, staff, and experts work
18 every day to push the City and CPD to implement the consent
19 decree.

20 Many of the members of our team are in court today,
21 and I would like them to introduce themselves.

22 MR. WELLS: Good morning, your Honor.

23 My name is Christopher Wells. I'm the chief of the
24 Public Interest Division. And I have the honor of leading
25 the CPD team for our office, along with Mary.

1 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Good morning, Mr. Wells.

2 MS. JJEMBA: Good morning, your Honors.

3 Patricia Jjemba. I'm in the officer wellness
4 section.

5 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Say your last name again.

6 MS. JJEMBA: Jjemba.

7 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you.

8 MS. MEEK: Good morning, your Honors.

9 I'm Amy Meek. And I'm the Civil Rights Bureau
10 chief.

11 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Good morning.

12 MS. BASS EHLER: Good morning, your Honors.

13 Karyn Bass Ehler. I'm the Assistant Chief Deputy
14 Attorney General.

15 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Good morning.

16 MS. JUROWICZ: Good morning, your Honor.

17 Hanna Jurowicz. I'm in the supervision section.

18 MR. HAZINSKI: Good morning, your Honors.

19 John Hazinski, Assistant Attorney General, in the
20 accountability section.

21 MR. WENZLOFF: Good morning, your Honor.

22 My name is Aaron Wenzloff. I am responsible for
23 the community policing; use of force; and recruitment,
24 hiring, and promotions sections.

25 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you.

1 MS. NEWMAN: Good morning, your Honor.

2 My name is Rebekah Newman, and I supervise the
3 crisis intervention section.

4 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, Ms. Newman.

5 MS. STEINES: Good morning, your Honor.

6 My name is Stevi Steines, and I am the lead on the
7 accountability section.

8 MS. GRIEB: Your Honor, I'm the deputy chief of the
9 Civil Rights Bureau.

10 In addition to the attorneys here in court, our
11 team also includes subject matter experts from around the
12 country, all of whom have been a part of this process since
13 the beginning.

14 Our team of experts include Scott Thompson, who has
15 over 27 years of law enforcement experience and is the former
16 chief of police in Camden, New Jersey; Jonathan Smith,
17 current executive director of the Washington Lawyers'
18 Committee for Civil Rights and former chief of the special
19 litigation section of the Civil Rights Division of the United
20 States Department of Justice; and Greg Ridgeway, Professor of
21 Criminology and Statistics and Data Science at the University
22 of Pennsylvania.

23 On behalf of the Attorney General's Office, I want
24 to begin by expressing our profound gratitude to Judge Dow
25 for the public service he has performed in this case.

1 When we filed this case a little over five years
2 ago, our team knew it would need a thoughtful and
3 conscientious judge to oversee the important work to come.
4 We could not have ended up in more dedicated hands during
5 these crucial years.

6 Judge Dow, you have often said that this is one of
7 the most important cases you will ever have. You have
8 certainly treated it that way.

9 Through late-night and weekend phone calls with the
10 monitor, Friday night marathon settlement conferences, and
11 over 1,000 docket entries, you have consistently demonstrated
12 thoughtfulness; patience; humility; and, above all, humanity.

13 You have always recognized that the work we are
14 doing here is far bigger than any one of us. While the
15 people may change, the work goes on. And we will always be
16 grateful for all you have done to get us started down this
17 long and winding road.

18 Chief Judge Pallmeyer, as sad as we are to see
19 Judge Dow leave us, we are happy that you will now join us on
20 this path. We know that you will help us move forward with
21 the same steady commitment and seriousness of purpose.

22 As you join us on this road to reform, we want to
23 share our thoughts on where we have been, where we are, and
24 where we are going.

25 As oft quoted this morning -- and clearly it

1 resonated with the parties and the independent monitor --
2 when Judge Dow approved the consent decree, he concluded by
3 saying, "Let us begin."

4 Now, nearly four years later, we are still far from
5 the end, much farther than we should be. But it is fair to
6 say that we have reached the end of the beginning.

7 The consent decree defines compliance as a
8 three-step process. Step one is to create policies that
9 establish the necessary foundation for constitutional
10 policing. Step two is to train officers on those policies.
11 And step three is to ensure that officers on the street are
12 actually following those policies and engaging in
13 constitutional policing.

14 Nearly four years in, we are nearing completion of
15 step one. The department's written policies are
16 significantly better than when we first encountered them.
17 For example, the department's new use of force policies,
18 while not perfect, incorporate best practices from around the
19 country and many of the recommendations of the Community
20 Working Group.

21 The department also recently issued a long-needed
22 foot pursuit policy focused on ensuring the safety of the
23 public and CPD officers. Throughout this time, our office
24 has engaged with CPD on an almost daily basis to move forward
25 collaboratively where we can, and we are committed to

1 continuing those efforts.

2 But getting to this point has been far harder than
3 it should have been. The City and CPD have consistently
4 resisted common sense policy changes proposed by our team,
5 the monitor, and the community members with whom CPD must
6 engage.

7 As the Use of Force Community Working Group
8 recounts in a recent report, community recommendations were
9 initially rejected by the City and CPD and only adopted after
10 a tedious and excruciating process that eroded community
11 trust. It should not have been as hard as it was.

12 And while we applaud the department for enacting a
13 monitor-approved foot pursuit policy in August, it also took
14 far too long -- more than five years since the United States
15 Department of Justice first told CPD it needed this policy.

16 Even now, there are several critical and long
17 overdue policies that the department has yet to issue, which
18 I will return to later.

19 As a result, the public is understandably concerned
20 about where we are nearly four years in. For the people of
21 Chicago, the progress we have made on paper does not mean
22 much until that progress is reflected in CPD's practices.
23 That is the critical work that lies ahead of us as we look to
24 the training and implementation phases of the consent decree.
25 And there is much to do.

1 Turning to where we go from here, I want to briefly
2 discuss the status of some key consent decree components:
3 training, staffing, community trust, written policies, and
4 officer wellness.

5 First, training.

6 Step two of the consent decree requires the
7 department to train officers on the written policies that it
8 has issued. We remain concerned that the academy does not
9 have enough instructors to meet the consent decree's training
10 requirements.

11 In recent months, the academy has had to pull in
12 officers from other units to serve as instructors, ask
13 overburdened instructors to work overtime, and quickly train
14 instructors in the complex subject matter of the course they
15 are teaching.

16 Even with these efforts, it is not clear whether
17 CPD will meet the consent decree requirement to provide
18 40 hours of training this year.

19 And this brings me to staffing. Unfortunately, the
20 academy is not the only unit where the City and CPD have not
21 allocated sufficient staff or resources to do the reform work
22 they need to do.

23 Several units in particular have been consistently
24 understaffed. For example, the Tactical Review and
25 Evaluation Division, or TRED, reviews incidents where an

1 officer uses force or points a firearm at a person. The
2 goals of this unit are to provide feedback to officers and
3 supervisors about their tactics; to identify concerns with
4 department policies, training, or practices; and to analyze
5 use of force data.

6 But TRED staffing has been declining, creating a
7 backlog of reviews. At last report this month, TRED had a
8 backlog of nearly 400 force incident reviews and nearly a
9 thousand firearm-pointing reviews.

10 Making matters worse, at various times this year,
11 and especially this summer, officers from TRED and other
12 critical reform units have been deployed to patrol duties on
13 a rolling basis, further slowing progress on reform.

14 We are particularly concerned that officers are
15 being deployed to patrol unfamiliar beats and neighborhoods.
16 This approach to deployment threatens to undermine the
17 community policing and trust-building approach required by
18 the consent decree. The philosophy of community policing
19 requires the systemic use of community partnerships and
20 problem-solving techniques to build community trust and
21 improve public safety.

22 Unfortunately, CPD continues many of the same
23 troubling strategies it has used for years: saturating
24 neighborhoods -- predominately black and brown communities --
25 with officers, many of whom are unfamiliar with those

1 communities; an overreliance on traffic stops as a crime
2 reduction strategy, despite the negative impact those stops
3 can have on trust and police; and relegating community
4 engagement to the Office of Community Policing rather than
5 every officer on the department.

6 As noted in the status report submitted by the
7 coalition last week, CPD has resisted community input on
8 several critical policies over the past two years and
9 continually struggled with effective community engagement.

10 These strategies impact community trust, as seen in
11 the monitor's report this summer on focus groups with young
12 black and Latino men. The report echoes what many Chicagoans
13 have long known and felt: CPD's ongoing failure to change how
14 it treats black and Latino residents has led to deep
15 community distrust.

16 We hope CPD hears the focus group participants as
17 well as the voices of the people who speak in court today.
18 To build trust, CPD must listen to marginalized community
19 members and approach community policing, reform, and public
20 safety holistically.

21 Returning to the topic of written policies. CPD
22 still has not issued several major policies that govern how
23 officers interact with many of Chicago's most vulnerable
24 populations.

25 When we last appeared before the Court in April, we

1 identified seven major policies that were long overdue. We
2 expressed our hope that CPD would finalize these policies by
3 the time we appeared before the Court again.

4 Unfortunately, for six of these policies, the
5 department has not. These outstanding policies are policies
6 prohibiting sexual misconduct by officers, allowing people to
7 record officers performing their duties in public, providing
8 meaningful access to police services for individuals with
9 disabilities and individuals with limited English
10 proficiency, a policy requiring officers to respond to and
11 interact with youth and children in a developmentally
12 appropriate way, and finally, a policy mandating officers to
13 use body-worn cameras in compliance with the consent decree
14 and state law.

15 Additionally, as noted in the recent status reports
16 filed by the Communities United and Campbell plaintiffs of
17 the coalition, CPD is far from completing a revised search
18 warrant policies and practices that are consistent with the
19 consent decree and incorporate community input. We continue
20 to urge the City and CPD to prioritize finalizing these
21 critical and long overdue policies.

22 Finally, we recognize and acknowledge the
23 challenges the department faces in maintaining officer
24 wellness, a key component of the consent decree.

25 Officers can face incredibly difficult and

1 traumatic circumstances every day. And we express our
2 sincerest condolences to the officer's family and the
3 department for the police officer suicides over the past
4 year. We never lose sight of the tragic toll suicide takes
5 on the friends, family, and colleagues left behind.

6 As we begin the process of translating policies
7 into practices, we urge the department, including its
8 leadership, to recommit to this work. The consent decree is
9 not optional, nor is it just a series of boxes to be checked.
10 De-emphasizing the consent decree will not make it go away.
11 If anything, the process will just take longer. Although the
12 people may change, the work must and will go on.

13 So, Chief Judge Pallmeyer, we welcome you to this
14 journey. We have made some progress from where we started,
15 but we have much further to go. We are committed to working
16 with the Court, the City, CPD, the monitoring team, and the
17 community to keep moving forward on critically needed
18 reforms. We know this is a long road, but our work continues
19 every day to ensure there is constitutional policing in
20 Chicago.

21 Thank you, your Honor.

22 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, Ms. Grieb.

23 We have representatives here of the coalition that
24 I believe will be heard from. First on that list is
25 Mr. Futterman, who I see is with us.

1 JUDGE DOW: Couldn't see this on the zoom calls.
2 It looks like you're pretty good on one crutch, though.

3 MR. FUTTERMAN: Hopefully, in a few days, I will be
4 hobbling no crutch.

5 Good morning, both Chief Judge Pallmeyer,
6 Judge Dow.

7 We -- and folks will introduce themselves in a few
8 moments, but we are honored to represent a coalition of
9 14 community and civil rights organizations that represent
10 tens of thousands of Chicagoans from all parts of the city,
11 people who have lived experience who have been most impacted
12 by police abuse.

13 We have been fighting for decades to bring an end
14 to the police department's pattern and practice of civil
15 rights violations, long before the U.S. Department of Justice
16 finally responded to our cries.

17 The U.S. DOJ had refused to come to Chicago until
18 we actually won a court order that forced the police
19 department to release the video of Officer Jason Van Dyke's
20 execution of a 17-year-old boy.

21 Demonstrations that were led by young black folks
22 forced the justice department to actually have to reckon with
23 the routine machinery through which the Chicago Police
24 Department hid and justified systemic violence against black
25 people.

1 The justice department, as you all know, then
2 launched the largest civil rights investigation of a police
3 department in its history. It made detailed findings
4 documenting what black and brown people in Chicago have
5 viscerally, though, known for decades and entered a written
6 agreement with then-Mayor Rahm Emanuel committing to a
7 federal consent decree.

8 But after the change of the administrations
9 following the 2016 elections, the U.S. government turned its
10 back on the people of Chicago and the City retreated from its
11 commitments.

12 So members of the community coalition then stepped
13 up and did what the U.S. government refused to do. We
14 brought federal civil rights lawsuits to try to end violent,
15 racist, and abusive policing in the city.

16 And after the Illinois Attorney General also
17 stepped up in a truly historic fashion to fill the void left
18 by the justice department, the coalition ultimately agreed to
19 dismiss our lawsuits in exchange for the right to enforce the
20 decree in court.

21 That's historic. I mean, this is the first time --
22 this is the first time that community enforcement has ever
23 been written into a government consent decree with the police
24 in the U.S. ever. And we have taken this responsibility with
25 the utmost seriousness.

1 So as Mary just said, we are nearly four years into
2 the decree. Where do things stand? And where do things
3 stand from the perspective of people on the ground?

4 In short, your Honors, the coalition is frustrated.

5 Rather than embrace the decree as an opportunity to
6 do better, to be better, the City has continued to deny the
7 reality of our clients' experiences, it's continued to resist
8 genuine engagement with impacted folk, and it's continued to
9 resist change.

10 CPD's pattern of delay, denial, resistance have
11 left coalition members, folks who you hear from, feeling
12 profoundly both disrespected, frustrated, and even angry.
13 And most importantly, it's left entire communities living in
14 continued fear of predatory behavior by the very people who
15 are sworn to protect them.

16 Your Honor, coalition members are losing faith and
17 losing faith in this process.

18 Throughout the entirety of this decree, the Chicago
19 Police Department has been engaged in a pattern of illegal,
20 violent, and dehumanizing raids, raids that continue to
21 traumatize thousands of black and brown families in Chicago.

22 For the past two and a half years, we have
23 exercised our rights under the decree to try to stop this
24 mess, and the past two and a half years, the police
25 department's resisted.

1 Police raid in Chicago about 15 homes a year.
2 That's more than four separate families a day. Virtually all
3 the families are black and brown; according to the Inspector
4 General, 96 percent.

5 Officers break down people's doors in their homes
6 in the middle of the night, guns drawn -- you will hear from
7 folks about this -- leaving people to believe that they are
8 going to be robbed or worse.

9 Police point assault rifles, semiautomatic weapons
10 directly at little kids, directly at their parents. They
11 handcuff kids in front of their parents and parents in front
12 of their children, and they have treated people with a basic
13 lack of respect for their humanity, including detaining and
14 demeaning women like Social Worker Anjanette Young, who's
15 here today, naked or near naked in front of a band of
16 intruding strangers. We will hear from Ms. Young.

17 We will hear from other survivors of CPD raids
18 firsthand today about the harm that they suffered and about
19 the harm that they just haven't suffered in the past but that
20 continues.

21 So to conclude my comments, your Honors, if there
22 is one thing that we have learned in this process through
23 this, it's that CPD will change only when they are forced to
24 do so.

25 Real change has occurred only when the community

1 coalition has stood up, spoken out, exercised our rights
2 under the decree, and the court monitor have pressed the City
3 to engage, to negotiate with us.

4 At this moment, your Honors, there is nothing more
5 critical than for the Court to convene settlement
6 negotiations with the CPD and the coalition, with people most
7 impacted to stop these ongoing constitutional violations. We
8 can't let another kid, another child be forced to cower with
9 a loaded CPD M-4 rifle pointed at their head.

10 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, Mr. Futterman.

11 MS. BEDI: Good morning, Judge Dow.

12 Good morning, Chief Judge Pallmeyer.

13 I'm Sheila Bedi, one of the other attorneys that
14 represent the community coalition.

15 As you have already heard this morning, there has
16 been some progress with CPD's compliance with the consent
17 decree, but the consent decree that we are all here for today
18 has failed to fulfill its truly transformative potential.

19 The consent decree has been failed, in large part,
20 because those with the power to implement it view the consent
21 decree as optional, as an inconvenience, as a political
22 talking point, not as a federal court order, not as the
23 minimum constitutional requirements needed in order to
24 protect lives and to protect communities from CPD's racist
25 violence, which has been CPD's calling card for generations.

1 And we know this because, while the consent decree
2 contains many important provisions, in several crucial
3 respects it falls short.

4 It's allowed CPD to hold fast to a culture that
5 denies the reality of CPD violence and that facilitates
6 police immunity. Recent headlines are evidence of this.
7 Even as we appear here today, a CPD officer with ties to the
8 white supremacist Proud Boys, one of the groups that led the
9 January 6th Capitol insurrection, is also a proud member of
10 the CPD.

11 Both the mayor and the superintendent defended the
12 October 2022 decision to allow this officer to remain on the
13 force, to carry a CPD badge, and reflect the overtly racist
14 path CPD has been on for generations. This path is one that
15 the department has continued upon, even with the consent
16 decree in place.

17 The last time we were together for a listening
18 session was in the summer of 2020. We gathered together to
19 hear from over 60 people who protested in the streets. They
20 were protesting police violence and white supremacy.

21 Over 60 people took time away from work and family
22 to explain to Judge Dow how CPD officers brutalized them; how
23 they used lethal force, baton strikes to the head; and
24 indiscriminate use of OC spray; animus toward the protestors,
25 using slurs and taunting them.

1 Many of the people who were harmed during the
2 summer of 2020 are still dealing with the lingering effects
3 of those injuries.

4 Hundreds of officers harmed peaceful protesters.
5 And the independent monitor of the Office of Inspector
6 General issued detailed reports confirming CPD's widespread
7 violence and policy violations.

8 Despite these facts, we have identified only
9 12 officers who have been subject to discipline for their
10 role in harming protestors during the summer of 2020.

11 These accountability failures have real-world
12 consequences. The IMT's recent focus group report on young
13 black and brown men detailed that every single participant --
14 every single participant in that focus group either had a CPD
15 officer point a gun at them or witnessed a CPD officer point
16 a gun at a member of their community.

17 CPD's uses of force often result in flagrant police
18 violence, and it's violence that is so common it doesn't even
19 make headlines -- TASERs, OC spray, black eyes, backs that
20 are bruised from being thrown against police cars.

21 And much of this violence happens because police
22 have incentives to escalate encounters with our communities.
23 This often happens when police officers are arresting people
24 for minor and non-violent offenses, things like drinking in
25 the public way or disorderly conduct.

1 Officers get paid time and a half when their shift
2 gets extended because they are processing an arrest. What
3 this means is that officers have financial incentives to
4 arrest and to escalate encounters.

5 So how can we course correct? Well, there's two
6 solutions that could be written into the consent decree and
7 implemented tomorrow.

8 The first is that the superintendent must use his
9 significant power to remove racist, violent officers from the
10 streets, pending full investigations.

11 Until this happens, CPD officers will hear one
12 message: that they can abuse with impunity. CPD's culture is
13 too ingrained and too powerful for the superintendent to not
14 use this power.

15 And second, the consent decree must be amended to
16 include the creation of diversion programs and a prohibition
17 on officer trolling, so specifically, a pre-arrest diversion
18 program that would give services to all people, not just
19 people who are in crisis. We heard this morning about the
20 City's commitment to such programming. Those provisions
21 should be written into the consent decree.

22 The diversion provisions would also include a
23 community mediation program that would allow community
24 members to resolve disputes without relying on the police.

25 The development of a citation program that would

1 allow officers to give tickets, citations for quality of life
2 offenses.

3 These are provisions that exist in other consent
4 decrees around the country and that have helped fuel real
5 change. Chicagoans deserve no less.

6 Despite its flaws, the consent decree has the
7 potential to significantly curb lawless police violence. But
8 this potential will never be realized so long as those with
9 the political power to implement change view the decree as
10 optional, an optional exercise in checking boxes, and not a
11 federal court order containing life-saving mandates, mandates
12 that must be followed and strengthened to have their intended
13 effect.

14 Thank you for hearing from us this morning.

15 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, Ms. Bedi.

16 MS. ANTHOLT: Good morning, your Honors.

17 My name is Amanda Antholt. I am an attorney with
18 Equip for Equality. We are a disability rights organization
19 and one of the counsel for the community coalition.

20 One of the areas where the consent decree has not
21 lived up to its promise is as to the more than 520,000 people
22 with disabilities who reside in Chicago and hundreds of
23 thousands more who have mental illness.

24 People with disabilities, mental or physical, and
25 particularly people of color with disabilities are

1 disproportionately impacted by police violence.

2 Unfortunately, when the consent decree was
3 negotiated, the parties rejected the coalition's proposals
4 for comprehensive disability-specific reforms to policing,
5 use of force, and deflection and diversion.

6 I want to pause there to explain something that
7 might be a little confusing, because we heard about these
8 great programs from Mr. Richards this morning, from the
9 Department of Public Health. And we fully support those
10 programs and his wonderful work.

11 But that's not a part of the consent decree. It's
12 something that we asked. The coalition advocated to be a
13 part of the consent decree, and the City refused.

14 Those are new programs that are building up, and
15 they are great, but they don't have the court oversight or
16 reform, and we don't know how sustainable or how much they
17 are going to be resourced up. And they are not a part of the
18 consent decree, because when the consent decree was
19 negotiated, it was limited to the police department, not the
20 public health workers who are doing those programs.

21 Instead of that kind of more comprehensive program
22 that may or may not ever come to be in Chicago outside of
23 policing, the consent decree, what it did -- what the parties
24 agreed to do was expand CPD's existing crisis intervention
25 program, commonly referred to as CIT, the Crisis Intervention

1 Team, to give requirements within that program for police
2 interactions with people with disabilities more broadly, not
3 just mental health crisis, but CIT was now supposed to be
4 expanded to include people with disabilities, broadly
5 speaking, and those police interactions.

6 But the CPD has not met even the core requirements
7 for the CIT program. So that's why we are hearing about a
8 program that's not actually -- this consent decree-mandated
9 CIT program.

10 The monitor's report -- most recent report -- found
11 that the CPD has reached full compliance with only 3 of
12 64 consent decree terms for the CIT program. They have not
13 even reached preliminary compliance -- so that policy level
14 compliance -- with more than a third of the CIT program.

15 So it certainly has not been expanded to have this
16 broader reach for disability that we had sought.

17 The impact has been devastating. Despite some
18 small new programs that answer a very small percentage of the
19 calls, people with mental illness, whose families call to try
20 to get help, all too often are injured, shot, or land in
21 jail.

22 People with developmental disabilities and
23 intellectual disabilities commonly are hurt and traumatized
24 during interactions with the police, sometimes in ways that
25 take them back, in their functioning, years.

1 People with physical disabilities get injured when
2 they don't respond physically as the police expect or comply
3 with the orders because of their physical disability.

4 Whether police are responding to a call for help,
5 entering a home on search warrants, or policing on the
6 street, making a traffic stop, people with disabilities are
7 always present. And disability cannot be this one-off policy
8 or an aside added on to a program that's not even fully
9 resourced.

10 It must be a focus for comprehensive reform in
11 every CPD policy. And the coalition -- the community
12 coalition is here to keep fighting for that throughout this
13 consent decree.

14 Thank you.

15 JUDGE DOW: Could I ask you a question before
16 you --

17 MS. ANTHOLT: Yeah.

18 JUDGE DOW: So not too many times in this history
19 have I heard the City say, "We have got this new program,"
20 and have heard other people say, "And it's great."

21 I have on occasions -- and search warrants is
22 obviously the most noticeable thing. I have had people say,
23 "Well, it's a policy, but it's not in the decree"; or, "it's
24 arguably not in the decree."

25 I just wanted to make a point here, because I think

1 the monitor might be able to help Judge Pallmeyer understand
2 how all this works.

3 I had forgotten that things could be added to the
4 decree at certain intervals. And if there is something that
5 the City has spent 10 minutes this morning explaining how
6 great it is, and then you have said it is great, my one
7 thought is, well, the City ought to -- whether it's in the
8 decree or not, the City ought to treat it as if it's in the
9 decree.

10 And if it's not in the decree and it should be in
11 the decree, there are intervals at which the monitor can
12 suggest to the presiding judge that it ought to be in the
13 decree, and it can be added to the decree.

14 We did a fashion of that with search warrants this
15 year.

16 But I wonder -- maybe the monitor could help me
17 out -- when is the next time you can suggest that?

18 MS. HICKEY: At the end of year four.

19 JUDGE DOW: Year four. Okay.

20 MS. HICKEY: At the end of year four there will be
21 an assessment and recommendations.

22 JUDGE DOW: Perfect. So it's just a marker.
23 Really, the marker is more for my wonderful colleague here,
24 who may not have gotten through all 799 paragraphs and
25 internalized them yet.

1 The marker is, when I hear there is a great program
2 and I hear you all say it is a great program, that's the kind
3 of thing that everybody ought to work on together. It ought
4 to be treated as if it's part of this.

5 And if it needs to be part of it because it's not
6 being treated that way, there is an avenue for it to be
7 formally part of the decree, if that's what's needed at the
8 time. And I wanted Chief Judge Pallmeyer to understand that.

9 I couldn't remember when the next time that's an
10 issue that Maggie can raise.

11 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: When you say, the end of
12 year four, you mean the end of 2023?

13 MS. HICKEY: No. It's -- technically, because of
14 the way the consent decree came to be on March 1st and then
15 extensions because of COVID, year four officially ends
16 June 30th, 2023, for the consent decree.

17 The consent decree doesn't work on the January
18 calendar for the ending because of delay in getting it
19 started and the delay because of COVID.

20 JUDGE DOW: So it's seven months away.

21 MS. HICKEY: Yes.

22 JUDGE DOW: That's not too long, but it's a little
23 wrinkle that I didn't realize until we started working on
24 search warrants. I had forgotten about it.

25 MS. HICKEY: So on June 30th, 2023, is when we

1 would begin our assessment, and then offer it sometime in the
2 following months.

3 JUDGE DOW: Right. But it's something you can
4 assess for seven months. You can raise it at that time. And
5 then it's an issue, really, for Chief Judge Pallmeyer to sort
6 through after she has got your report and anybody else's
7 input she wants to take.

8 MS. HICKEY: I promise you -- both your Honors -- I
9 have a running list I have been assessing since day one.

10 MS. ANTHOLT: I don't want to get too in the weeds
11 of this, because I know it's too much, but this issue is a
12 little different because what they have done with the current
13 consent decree terms is kind of siloed policing.

14 So things like Public Health Department crisis work
15 in the community is different than a police response to a
16 call, one of the hundreds of thousands of calls involving
17 people with mental illness or other disabilities each year
18 and the police officers responding. Those are actually two
19 different departments, two different kind of staff people
20 responding.

21 And part of why it's so important -- would be so
22 important to have consent decree oversight is because of the
23 need for system interaction and coordination and resource
24 development to really make those programs as sustainable as
25 they can be and to make them functional to decrease the

1 harmful effects that happen when police are on the scene in
2 these kinds of incidents.

3 I hope I didn't confuse that too much.

4 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: We are still talking,
5 though, about -- whether it's the Department of Public Health
6 or the Chicago Police Department, we are still talking about
7 calls that come in to the City through a crisis -- in a
8 crisis.

9 MS. ANTHOLT: Right.

10 So the City's OEMC, the Office of Emergency
11 Management and Communications, gets calls. And many of those
12 calls -- people here probably know the numbers; I think it's
13 over several hundred thousand a year -- are coded as
14 involving mental illness or some kind of crisis.

15 And then some of those calls, under these very new
16 pilot programs, are being kind of switched over to other
17 kinds of responses or, hopefully, in some of these new
18 programs, having a social work-type call-taker respond to
19 them instead of a police dispatch.

20 But those programs are still very new and very
21 small. We are thrilled that they are happening in Chicago.
22 They are crucial. But they are not specifically under the
23 consent decree currently --

24 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Correct.

25 MS. ANTHOLT: -- because they are separate than the

1 police response.

2 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: All right.

3 MS. ANTHOLT: Thank you.

4 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you.

5 MS. BLOCK: Good morning, your Honors.

6 My name is Alexandra Block. I'm an attorney with
7 the ACLU of Illinois. And together with my colleagues here
8 today, I represent the coalition that enforces the consent
9 decree.

10 This morning I am going to echo some of the themes
11 that our colleagues have already emphasized, that racist and
12 violent policing, unfortunately, despite the consent decree,
13 is still the norm being experienced by people on the ground
14 in the city.

15 Our clients have not observed meaningful or
16 measurable changes in how police behave toward them, and the
17 data bear this out.

18 I'm going to talk briefly this morning about some
19 qualitative data and some quantitative data.

20 One example of the qualitative data is the report
21 that the independent monitor published in September of this
22 year. Ms. Bedi already mentioned it. It was a report from
23 focus groups of black and Latino men aged 18 to 35. The
24 focus groups uniformly expressed profound mistrust between
25 Chicago's black and brown communities and the police.

1 Many black and brown communities feel both
2 underprotected and overpoliced -- underprotected and
3 overpoliced.

4 Underprotected means that the focus group
5 participants reported feeling that the police didn't do their
6 jobs effectively because they ignored or delayed responding
7 to calls for service or police failed to investigate crimes.
8 And this made the focus group participants feel that their
9 safety and their very lives were not valued by police.

10 At the same time, the participants reported
11 routinely aggressive, threatening, and racist interactions
12 with the police on a routine basis. They reported officers
13 routinely pointing guns at them during traffic stops, for
14 example.

15 And the quantitative data also bear this out. The
16 Chicago Police Department stops over 350,000 motorists for
17 traffic stops every year. The data that Chicago Police
18 Department is required to report to the Illinois Department
19 of Transportation shows that in 2021, the Chicago Police
20 Department stopped black drivers at five times the rate of
21 white drivers.

22 The Chicago Police Department stopped Latinx
23 drivers twice as often as white drivers in Chicago.

24 And these disparities are the same racial
25 disparities that have persisted since this traffic stop data

1 reporting began almost 20 years ago. They have not changed
2 since the consent decree went into effect in 2019.

3 Even more disturbing, the Chicago Office of the
4 Inspector General reports that black people are subjected to
5 over 83 percent of the uses of force during investigatory
6 stops. And over 87 percent of the uses of force during
7 traffic stops are against black people. And this is based on
8 stop data from 2017 to 2020, so spanning the time that the
9 consent decree has been in effect.

10 These reported racial disparities in stops and uses
11 of force have not changed since the consent decree went into
12 effect, despite the consent decree's requirements for
13 impartial and unbiased policing.

14 This data showed that the necessary transformation
15 has not occurred in practice under the consent decree.

16 And you will hear from a number of members of our
17 community today, who are going to tell you their very
18 personal stories about being subjected to police violence and
19 harassment.

20 And thank you for giving us the opportunity to
21 present their stories today.

22 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, Ms. Block.

23 MS. GARCIA: Good morning, your Honors.

24 Michelle Garcia with the ACLU on behalf of the
25 coalition counsel.

1 You have heard from my colleagues of the coalition
2 that we represent 14 diverse community and civil rights
3 organizations in Chicago. And we have been fighting to stop
4 CPD's racist, unconstitutional, and violent policing since
5 before the decree was entered.

6 Our clients gave up their civil rights lawsuits to
7 enforce this decree. And what we have found time and time
8 again is that the City and CPD will not change to stop
9 harming people with disabilities and black and Latino
10 Chicagoans until the Court and the monitor forces them to do
11 so.

12 My colleagues explained that, over our objections,
13 the decree failed to comprehensively deal with disability
14 issues and isolated it to the Crisis Intervention Team. And
15 now CPD has cut resources to that team.

16 My colleagues explained that CPD is violating the
17 consent decree as we speak with its search warrants, raiding
18 about four families in their homes a day, but CPD won't even
19 negotiate a search warrant policy with the coalition and
20 counsel and community members.

21 My colleagues have explained to you today that
22 there are holes in the consent decree, areas that we have
23 raised early on and areas where we think CPD needs to step up
24 in addressing accountability for officers that harm people at
25 protests and officers that commit misconduct.

1 Even with the decree, CPD continues to use
2 excessive force and stops black and brown men at higher rates
3 than others in traffic stops and other investigatory stops.

4 While we are grateful for this hearing, because it
5 confirms our clients' and community members' lived
6 experiences, we ask that everyone, including the Attorney
7 General's office and CPD, do more than listen.

8 We request that the Court take an active role in
9 holding CPD accountable for its failures to engage with the
10 coalition and our community members and live up to the
11 consent decree's promises to stop racist, unconstitutional,
12 and violent policing.

13 Thank you.

14 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, Ms. Garcia.

15 I have on the agenda an indication that we may be
16 hearing from Mr. D'Alba, who's a representative of the police
17 union.

18 Is Mr. D'Alba with us? He is not.

19 All right. Then, we will be moving to the next
20 stage of our hearing this morning, which is an opportunity
21 for community members to speak.

22 We have a list of those individuals. Although we
23 are starting about five minutes early, I do want to adhere to
24 the plan that we will be asking each of you to limit your
25 comments to about three minutes. That gives us about

1 30 seconds then for the next speak speaker to step up. I
2 myself will monitor the timing.

3 But we can begin, I think, with Jalonda
4 Blassingame, if you want to step up.

5 I will just hold up my hand when you have got,
6 like, about a minute to go.

7 MS. BLASSINGAME: Okay.

8 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Go ahead.

9 MS. BLASSINGAME: Good morning, everyone.

10 My name is Jalonda Blassingame.

11 In 2015, as we do on a regular basis -- I do -- I
12 was at home with me and my three boys and my nephew. I was
13 making dinner. I had just got off work. I was making dinner
14 for them, my boys in the front doing homework and playing of
15 video games.

16 I just heard a loud bang at my door. I didn't know
17 what was going on. I thought somebody was trying to break in
18 the house.

19 So I ran to the front to get the kids, to see what
20 they were doing. And I heard, boom, boom, boom. And they
21 got scared, so they got to run out of the room. We all
22 started running, trying to go out the front door.

23 So then I heard a loud bang at the front door. I
24 just heard, like, a big flash bomb or a smoke grenade or
25 something like that, of that sort. So we ran in the front

1 room, like in the front bedroom.

2 So I looked at my nephew. He was trying to jump
3 out the front window -- out the balcony. But he's -- they
4 were all young, like three, four, five, six, stuff like that.

5 So I'm, like, no. At that point, I'm, like, this
6 can't be somebody trying to break in the house. It has to be
7 the police.

8 So I didn't hear anybody knock. They didn't
9 acknowledge that they were the police or anything. So I
10 didn't know what it was.

11 But when I saw the grenade, I'm, like, it had to be
12 the police. So I just told them to get down behind me, and
13 we all were in the floor crouched down.

14 So I heard somebody come in the room with the guns
15 pointed. I looked up. It was guns -- a big -- like a big --
16 some type of rifle gun pointed. So I'm like, "Nobody is
17 here. It's just me and my boys. What's going on?"

18 He was, like, just -- you know, they use expletive
19 words. You know, just shut the -- you know, just shut up.
20 They still had the guns pointed. I'm, like, "These are kids.
21 Put your guns down. These are kids."

22 So I stood in front of them, because I was scared
23 that, you know, the guns might go off by mistake. So if
24 anybody was to get shot, it would be me instead of the boys
25 getting shot.

1 So they were screaming and crying, and the police
2 just kept cursing. "Just shut up. Go to the front."

3 So they led us from the front bedroom down the
4 hall, back toward the kitchen. One in the front. One was
5 one in back. And it was, like, the house -- at that point,
6 the house was full of police officers.

7 So they still had the guns pointed the whole time,
8 as we walked back. I thought they would have put the guns up
9 once they saw the kids, but they never did.

10 So they made us get down on the kitchen floor. So
11 we sat on the kitchen floor. At that point, one of them
12 handcuffed me. I'm not sure who it was, but I know I was
13 handcuffed.

14 The guns was still pointing at that time. They
15 never took the guns off. They didn't take the guns off until
16 one of the police came back in the back and said, "Okay,
17 we're all clear."

18 It was, like, five minutes the guns were being
19 pointed. It was, like -- for the whole ordeal, it had to be,
20 like, five to seven minutes the guns were pointed.

21 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: We are just about done
22 here.

23 MS. BLASSINGAME: Okay.

24 I come to find out that they were looking for
25 someone that was already in jail serving a 40-year prison

1 sentence for murder that stayed in my apartment, like, years
2 before I stayed is there.

3 And they never apologized or anything about what
4 happened. So I had to sleep with the freezer door -- with
5 the freezer put up to the back door. Once they broke the
6 door, everything was tore up in the house.

7 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, Ms. Blassingame.

8 Our next speaker is Ledarrel Goss E1.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Ledarrel isn't coming today.

10 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Not able to be with us
11 today? All right.

12 I think we have -- next on our list, then, would be
13 Sharon Lyons.

14 Ms. Lyons, once again, I will hold up my hand when
15 you get to about one minute left.

16 MS. LYONS: Good morning, your Honors.

17 My name is Sharon Lyons.

18 February 26, 2000 -- 2020, 6:06 p.m., my son was
19 looking out the window, and he said, "Mom, it's a whole lot
20 of polices out there." He said, "They're going downstairs."

21 I hear a boom. Then I hear another boom. It was
22 my downstairs door.

23 So I'm standing -- there's the front door, and my
24 cat stand, and then it's my bedroom door. I'm standing right
25 there. I hear them come up the stairs.

1 Next thing I know, the door bust open. The panel
2 on the door flew across the other room.

3 They come in, two officers, rifles with flashlights
4 on them in my face, telling me to get on the floor.

5 My son was in the living room.

6 When I proceeded to go sit at the table, the chair
7 was knocked away from me on the other side of the kitchen. I
8 was still -- they still had guns on me. Told me to get down
9 on the floor. So I sat down. I got down on the floor, up
10 against my bedroom door. My grandbaby was in there. She was
11 four years old at the time.

12 They had one of my sons down by the bathroom on the
13 floor with the gun to his head, with they knee in his back.

14 I'm steady hollering asking them, "What's going on?
15 Why is y'all done kicked in my door? What do y'all want?
16 What are y'all looking for? Who are y'all looking for?"

17 No answer.

18 I was disrespected. My phone was snatched out of
19 my hand. I was hollered at. I was yelled at.

20 I asked them, could I go in the room and get my
21 four-year-old granddaughter? They told me no.

22 Two officers proceeded in my room at different
23 times with they guns out on my granddaughter. She's
24 hollering and she's screaming.

25 I tried to get up. They helped me up. And I sat

1 in a chair, finally. I tried to go in there and get her.
2 They closed my bedroom door while she was still in there
3 hollering and screaming. I felt useless for my four-year-old
4 grandbaby. And I felt helpless. I felt scared. I felt
5 disrespected, violated, everything.

6 These people have -- they had no morals at all of
7 coming up in my house, violating my privacy. I couldn't
8 sleep at night. I had a massive, massive headache when they
9 left.

10 They told me they had a search warrant. They
11 didn't proceed to give me a search warrant for the upstairs
12 and the downstairs until they left.

13 It was two officers outside. They was making fun
14 -- cracking jokes about the paneling on my door -- stairs
15 coming into the house.

16 It was one officer standing behind me. He wouldn't
17 let me move.

18 It was just devastating. It was scary. It was --
19 it was just -- it was just hopeless. I couldn't do nothing.
20 They wouldn't let me move. They wouldn't let me do nothing.

21 I had -- I kept telling them that I have a
22 30-year-old disabled son. He has autism. He gets upset
23 when, you know, he sees the police and stuff go on and
24 whatever. And I told them he probably was scared, which he
25 was in the living room.

1 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, Ms. Lyons.

2 MS. LYONS: You're welcome.

3 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you.

4 I think our next speaker is Karl Brinson.

5 Mr. Brinson, if you want to step forward. Again, I
6 will give you a hint when you have got a minute left.

7 Go ahead, sir.

8 MR. BRINSON: Good morning.

9 Judge Dow, we are going to miss you. We hope you
10 well -- wish you well in your new endeavors.

11 Judge Pallmeyer, where do we start?

12 We are humans. All the things you have heard, all
13 the things you will hear, and the things that we have
14 experienced being a black man living in the community, it's
15 been marginalized, disrespected for years and centuries.

16 The impacts of this consent decree has been going
17 on for several years. We see no resolve from it. We see no
18 impact from it.

19 We understand when you make the case -- and people
20 say that reform takes time. Our community doesn't have the
21 luxury of the time that it takes to reform when we are
22 talking about life and death.

23 In the situation that we're dealing with now and
24 will reoccur, it's all about life and death, how we are
25 policed, how we are being treated as human beings, our civil

1 rights being violated.

2 How long? We don't have that luxury to restart --
3 push the restart button or to say we have a resistance to be
4 engaged in a process.

5 Our people hear about a consent decree. All they
6 did was hear it. There was a consent decree just written
7 down on paper, but it's not in practice. The procedures are
8 not being applied.

9 How long? We don't have the luxury of a long time
10 to wait for something to come to fruition, for something we
11 have been waiting on for a lifetime in our community. This
12 is devastating. This is painful. As you hear us testify and
13 we give testimony, how we have been advocating for years for
14 the organizations -- for hundreds of years for some kind of
15 justice. How long?

16 Judge, we hope we get some enforcement in this
17 consent decree. Hear the cries of the people. Listen to the
18 community. Have full engagement. Let us have ownership in
19 how we're being policed, how we're being treated.

20 How long? Hear the cry of the community. Hear our
21 cry.

22 Thank you.

23 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, Mr. Brinson.

24 The next community member we will hear from is
25 Cynthia Eason.

1 Ms. Eason, I will give you a clue when you are up
2 to two minutes.

3 Go ahead.

4 MS. EASON: Good morning, your Honors.

5 My name is Cynthia Eason, here to tell you about
6 the situation that happened August 2018.

7 My daughter was in the front with her baby. I was
8 in the room taking my clothes off, preparing for a bath. I
9 hear a boom. I'm like, oh, my God. It sounded like a car
10 had came in. I know my daughter was in the front with her
11 baby.

12 I run and I look. It's policemen just rushing in.
13 "Who is in here?" I'm not going to use the profanity that
14 was used toward us, but my grandchildren were in the back --
15 my two grandsons. My granddaughter saw her mom going out the
16 front door. She ran behind her.

17 As my daughter is walking out the door, it was like
18 machine guns or something -- whatever they had was pointed
19 directly to her back, the same as my granddaughter.

20 My grandsons ran out behind me. I didn't know it.

21 So I'm standing there. "What's going on? What's
22 going on?"

23 They're saying to me, "Who's the F in here?"

24 I said, "No one but my daughter and my
25 grandchildren and myself."

1 "Put your hands up."

2 A gun was pointed at me. At the time, my
3 nine-year-old grandson, in his face. My 13-year-old
4 grandson, at the temple of his head.

5 And I'm saying, "Is this real?"

6 And they're saying, "Yes, this is real."

7 I'm like, "What's going on?"

8 They kept saying, "Who's the F in here? Who's the
9 F in here?"

10 And I said, "No one."

11 "Okay. Get the F out."

12 And I said, "I'm not leaving without any clothes."

13 I had on -- I was preparing for a bath, so I had on a
14 T-shirt, no bra on, and I had my underwear on.

15 They made me go outside with my T-shirt, no clothes
16 on, my underwear, outside. No shoes on. And I seen one cop
17 laugh at me.

18 And the way that they treated myself and my
19 daughter and my grandchildren, it was just ridiculous. Guns
20 were pointed at us the whole entire time.

21 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, Ms. Eason.

22 We will next hear from Andre Crayton.

23 Is Andre Crayton here?

24 (No response.)

25 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: All right. We can move,

1 then, to Dajae Allen.

2 (No response.)

3 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Darlene Ivory. Is Darlene
4 Ivory with us?

5 Thank you.

6 MS. IVORY: Good afternoon, your Honor.

7 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Good morning, actually.
8 Good morning, Ms. Ivory.

9 MS. IVORY: Good morning.

10 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: I will let you know when
11 you have got about a minute left to go.

12 MS. IVORY: Thank you, your Honor.

13 My name is Darlene Ivory. I am a black mother of
14 two black children. We live in Roseland area.

15 I am here to speak out against the injustice and
16 the harassment for the -- that black peoples deal with in
17 Roseland every day and participate -- want to tell you how
18 CPD abuse black peoples with disability.

19 It happened to my kids just about a month ago. It
20 started as an ordinary day. I went to the beauty store on
21 103rd, Calumet in Roseland.

22 While I was in the store, my daughter -- my son
23 called me, like, "Mama, get out here."

24 My daughter had schizophrenia, and my son has
25 bipolar disorder. Daughter is also a rape survivor.

1 They were just waiting in the car -- in a parked
2 car on the lot. They were driving around. They were -- they
3 wasn't driving around. They was just sitting in a parked
4 car. They was just waiting on me to come out.

5 All the sudden, while I'm in the store, here's CPD,
6 wearing all black clothes and bulletproof vests, grabbing my
7 daughter. I thought the officer was going to shoot my
8 children.

9 I kept saying, "No one dead today. No one dead
10 today."

11 They had my son-in-law handcuffed and other
12 officers just being violent and out of control toward my
13 daughter. My daughter can't respond well in a physical
14 situation. That's because she has schizophrenia.

15 The officer grabbed my daughter and started pulling
16 her out the car. My daughter was hollering and screaming,
17 "Please, don't rape me." The officer did nothing to calm her
18 down.

19 They showed no respect. No care. No profession.

20 How do you think it feel for a rape survivor with
21 schizophrenia to have a big, male officer with a gun grab her
22 and pull her out of the car? I was afraid for her. My
23 daughter need to be left alone and treated like -- like not a
24 criminal. She need to be treated with respect.

25 This police abuse has got to stop. The police need

1 to treat peoples with disability with dignity and respect.
2 All our life matter.

3 When I asked the officer what my kid do wrong, the
4 officer said, "Expired tag." Give me a break. For a black
5 clothes officer was abusing passenger parked -- my kids just
6 was parked, sitting there in the middle of the day. Expired
7 tag?

8 We all know Chicago police don't do this to white
9 peoples in white neighborhoods who have expired tags. We all
10 know those officers was really concerned about no expired
11 tags. The officers stereotyped my kids because they all
12 dark-skinned and all had dreads.

13 This officer assumed these black kids with dreads
14 was criminal and wanted to search their car, which the
15 officer did.

16 Chicago police need to stop harassing and need to
17 stop doing -- and need to start doing they job in safety.
18 They jobs is to protect us and keep us all safe. That
19 includes black peoples and black with disability.

20 And, Judge, we have the power to make Chicago
21 polices change how they behave. We need real change now.
22 All life matter.

23 Darlene Ivory. True story.

24 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, Ms. Ivory.

25 We will next hear from Miracle Boyd.

1 (No response.)

2 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Miracle Boyd may not be
3 with us.

4 Maybe -- is Tree Brown here?

5 Yes. Do you want to step forward. Is it
6 Mr. Brown?

7 MR. BROWN: Good morning, your Honors.

8 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Good morning.

9 MR. BROWN: Good morning, everyone.

10 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Mr. Brown, you could also
11 just pull down the microphone, if you want to do that.

12 MR. BROWN: Thank you.

13 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: That should work.

14 MR. BROWN: Testing. Testing. Okay.

15 My name is Tree Brown. I'm a 28-year-old gun
16 violence survivor and community activist and organizer with
17 the community organization Communities United.

18 This morning I'm going to share briefly, due to the
19 short time, two incidents where I experienced the injustices
20 of the police.

21 The first instance would be in June. I was in
22 front of my home, preparing to go to a community meeting with
23 my organization. I was waiting on a Lyft that they had
24 prepared to come get me. I live in the North Lawndale area,
25 community.

1 As I was waiting, a police squad car pulled up.
2 The officer in the driver's seat asked me what was in my bag.
3 So I sarcastically responded, "What's under your hat?"
4 because I understood that he couldn't just, you know, ask me
5 those questions.

6 So once he asked me again, I just replied, "Just
7 some of my stuff, sir. I'm just messing with you. Just some
8 of my stuff."

9 So he said, "What's your stuff?"

10 I said, "Stuff."

11 Another squad car pulled up. The two officers
12 jumped out, ran over there to me. He said, "What's in your
13 bag?"

14 I'm like, "Just some of my things."

15 So I had this exact fanny pack on me. The officer
16 reached for it, started to, like, try to grab it off me. I
17 tried to resist. When I tried to resist, the other officer
18 motioned as if he was grabbing his gun.

19 He said, "Don't touch it."

20 So I lift my hands up. They began ransacking
21 through my bags, and then they just walked off. They didn't
22 tell me what it was about. They didn't say anything. They
23 just walked off.

24 I began to just say things to them, like, "You
25 can't do this to people. How you expect us to respect you if

1 this how you act?" They ignored me and just went away.

2 The next incident would be from September. Me and
3 my girlfriend were in front of my home again. This time I
4 was in a vehicle. We were in our vehicle. The vehicle was
5 parked. It was off. I had just transferred out of my
6 wheelchair into the truck.

7 Once I got in the truck and sat down, my girlfriend
8 was preparing to get out of the car to break my wheelchair
9 down. Before she could get out of the car, four squad cars
10 surrounded us, started shining lights into the vehicle, and
11 then a lot of officers jumped out -- it was about nine
12 officers in total -- surrounded the car.

13 They began asking her for her ID, driver's license,
14 registration.

15 When they came to my side, though, that's when they
16 noticed that my passenger door was open and the wheelchair
17 was right there. And I began to notice that their demeanor
18 and their facial expressions, just the whole energy around
19 the whole thing changed.

20 To me, I perceived it as they saw a black male with
21 dreads in his vehicle, and they perceived something was
22 wrong. Once they saw I was disabled, they kind of felt less
23 that I was the criminal that they thought I was.

24 So then that was just a stall. Now we're just
25 sitting here. And we were like, "What's going on?" And they

1 were just looking crazy.

2 I asked one of them, "Well, since we're here now,
3 could you put my wheelchair in for me?"

4 He was like, "No."

5 And then again they just left. After they ran her
6 ID and things, they just left.

7 Moving forward after that, I no longer felt safe in
8 my community. When I see the police, I wonder, are they
9 gonna hop out and harass me? Are they gonna think I'm a
10 criminal? All these different things.

11 I just feel like what has been echoed today. The
12 police need a lot more training for their emotional and
13 mental states when they go into these areas, because I
14 understand a lot of them may have fear. That's
15 understandable. You're a human being. But they need more
16 training on how to deal with those feelings.

17 Also, we need more officers that are in communities
18 that are familiar with those communities and not going into
19 strange territories where all they have is reports of
20 shootings. So now they're going off the report. Like, okay,
21 there's a lot of shootings in this area. So nine times out
22 of ten, the average young person in this area may have a gun.

23 So they just need more training and more help with
24 their mental state and their connection to these communities.
25 And that would also allow us to feel safer.

1 And I also feel that, they made me feel that me
2 being disabled -- the first incident, when they ran up on me
3 and went through my bags, they made me feel like they felt
4 they could do that because I'm disabled. And they didn't
5 have to give me no explanations or anything because, what can
6 I do?

7 So, yeah, I just want to also thank all the mothers
8 and women who came and spoke today about their stories as
9 well and everyone who's going to speak. I will stop there.

10 Thank you, your Honor.

11 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: We thank you as well,
12 Mr. Brown. Thanks.

13 Mr. José Almanza. Is Mr. Almanza with us?

14 (No response.)

15 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: I can call the next person
16 on the list. That would be Mr. Vince Davis.

17 Mr. Davis is with us. Good.

18 Good morning, sir. I am going to give you an
19 indication when you have got a minute left.

20 MR. DAVIS: Yes, ma'am.

21 By the way, my name is Professor Vince Davis. I
22 have prior experience with law enforcement, as well as an
23 investigator with the Inspector General's office.

24 I kind of agree with Mr. Brown in terms of the use
25 of force. Most officers, you know, there's a mental state

1 that they go through.

2 And the use of force continuum is: officer
3 presence, verbal command, soft hand, impact weapon, and
4 deadly force.

5 And the body goes through physiological changes.
6 It's called parasympathetic sympathetic nervous system. And
7 I believe that that needs to be addressed more in use of
8 force training because that will make the officers aware
9 that -- you know, when they are in tunnel vision, 70 percent
10 of your vision is tunnel. It would make them aware.

11 I don't advocate people's constitutional rights
12 being violated. However, we need to come together as a team
13 and get on a collaborative team effort and try to make the
14 change in terms of the training.

15 By the way, I'm in my last year of law school, too,
16 as well, and I'm old, too. I'm going to finish.

17 Again, if there is any help that you need me in
18 terms of monitoring and help you, I can help.

19 Thank you.

20 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Mr. Davis, thank you.

21 I am going to ask whether any of the people that I
22 called earlier but who weren't here have now entered the
23 room.

24 One of those persons is Ledarrel Goss E1.

25 (No response.)

1 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Andre Crayton.

2 (No response.)

3 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Dajae Allen.

4 (No response.)

5 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Miracle Boyd.

6 MS. HICKEY: Your Honor, I understand that Miracle
7 Boyd will be here this afternoon.

8 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Oh, good.

9 MS. HICKEY: That it got miscalendared for the
10 morning. So we will add her on in the afternoon session.

11 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: That's fine.

12 José Almanza.

13 (No response.)

14 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: All right. Well, then
15 let's move on to the next person on the list. That's
16 Olatunji Oboi Reed. It looks like Mr. Reed is with us.

17 Good morning, sir. I'm going to give you an
18 indication when you have got one minute left to go.

19 MR. REED: Good morning, your Honors.

20 My name is Oboi -- Olatunji Oboi Reed. I am the
21 founding president and CEO of the Equiticity Racial Equity
22 Movement.

23 Black and brown communities in Chicago are
24 subjected to hundreds of thousands of brutal, racist,
25 unnecessary police encounters every year. CPD pulls over

1 around 350,000 drivers and stops around 70,000 pedestrians
2 every year.

3 This strategy isn't working to combat crime, nor
4 does it reduce traffic violence. But it is highly damaging
5 to black and brown communities, and it must change
6 immediately.

7 CPD officers disproportionately stop black and
8 Latinx residents in predominantly black and Latinx
9 neighborhoods, mostly young men.

10 Black drivers in Chicago are five times more likely
11 to be stopped than white drivers. Latinx drivers are two
12 times more likely to be stopped than white drivers.

13 Traffic stops all too often escalate into officers
14 beating, tasing, or even shooting people, as many
15 high-profile incidents have shown.

16 As just one recent example, an officer shot and
17 paralyzed a 13-year-old boy who ran from a traffic stop on
18 the west side this May. The boy was unarmed and had his
19 hands up to surrender when an officer shot him in the back.
20 The officer who shot the child did not activate his body-worn
21 cameras as required.

22 A recent study by the City of Chicago Office of
23 Inspector General found that among CPD traffic stops that
24 involved an officer using force, 87.2 percent of such uses of
25 force were against black people.

1 CPD issues eight times more tickets to cyclists for
2 riding on the sidewalk in black neighborhoods as compared to
3 white neighborhoods. Meanwhile, black and brown
4 neighborhoods are less likely to be provided with safe bike
5 infrastructure.

6 Since 2016, about two-thirds of all investigatory
7 stops were of black residents, while the city is only about
8 one-third black.

9 Almost all of the time, this horrific treatment
10 results in nothing but trauma for the people who were
11 stopped. CPD reports that 95 percent of these traffic stops
12 result in verbal warnings, not even a ticket.

13 Out of all black drivers stopped by Chicago police
14 in 2021, just half of 1 percent had contraband, including
15 guns or drugs, in their vehicle.

16 CPD's policing strategy of conducting hundreds of
17 thousands random pedestrian bike and vehicle stops must end
18 now. It is not making communities safer, as proven by the
19 fact that it yields little in the way of illegal guns or
20 drugs.

21 It is, however, irrevocably eroding trust and
22 respect between the police and the community.

23 Thank you.

24 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, Mr. Oboi Reed.

25 Krystal Archie?

1 MS. ARCHIE: Good morning, your Honors, everyone
2 else in the courtroom.

3 My name is Krystal Archie. I'm here to share my
4 experience.

5 About four years ago, my home was wrongfully raided
6 three times in four months.

7 The first two times that the home was raided, my
8 children were home alone. During the first raid, police bust
9 in the door upstairs in the two-unit building, and they
10 chased the children from upstairs down into our apartment.
11 And that is how they came into the apartment the first time.

12 Each time that the home was raided, it was left in
13 complete shambles. To this day, nothing has been found
14 illegally in my apartment. Nothing. We don't live that type
15 of life.

16 It's very scary that we have to stay in the
17 communities that we stay in, but it is what it is. That's
18 our lives.

19 The first time and second time, my children, as I
20 stated, were home alone. They were not allowed to call me
21 while I was at work. Neighbors had to call and let me know
22 what was going on in my home. By the time I arrived, the
23 officers had left the first time -- I'm sorry -- the second
24 time.

25 The first time they were there, but they would not

1 answer any questions for me. They could not tell me why they
2 were there. They were not able to tell me who they were
3 looking for.

4 The second time they had already left by the time I
5 made it there to see what was going on. The supervising
6 officer, I asked him why they had entered my home again.
7 That time they kicked my door in directly. I asked him -- he
8 told me that I needed to keep better friends.

9 I moved into that apartment less than a year before
10 that. I did not know the people living on the second floor.
11 I still do not know those people. We were neighbors. We
12 spoke neighborlike. That was it.

13 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: One minute left.

14 MS. ARCHIE: Yes, ma'am.

15 The third time, myself and my friend was there.
16 The officers came in through the front and back doors,
17 pointing rifles and guns at me and my friend. It allowed me
18 to know what happened with my children.

19 We were talked to very recklessly, very carelessly.
20 And to this day, there has been no apology. There's no --
21 there's no way of taking something like that back.

22 At the end of everything, I do need the Court to
23 simply understand that this was a family that did not deserve
24 something like that. Not that anyone deserves something like
25 it, but it is very serious. And I really hope that the

1 courts are listening and hearing everyone's stories and plan
2 to implement change as quickly as possible.

3 Thank you.

4 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you very much,
5 Ms. Archie.

6 Roxanne Smith?

7 I will let you know when you have about a minute
8 left. You are welcome to get started whenever you want to.

9 MS. SMITH: Okay.

10 Good morning. And thank you for having me.

11 My name is Roxanne Smith. I'm a black mother of
12 three, and I live in the Austin neighborhood.

13 I'm also the president of the board of directors of
14 Communities United. We are part of the coalition community
15 of groups that enforce the consent decree.

16 I have been fighting for years for real change in
17 policing because my family has survived police violence over
18 and over, just like so many black families in Chicago.

19 In particular, I have seen how CPD brutalizes
20 people with disabilities, because it happened to my son. One
21 of my sons has the developmental disability called
22 Friedreich's syndrome.

23 Several years ago -- in 2008, I believe it was --
24 he suffered a panic attack while we were at church. He
25 needed medical attention. And as his mother, I wanted to get

1 him medical help as soon as possible. So I called 911 to get
2 an ambulance or the paramedics.

3 Instead, more than six Chicago police officers
4 arrive with fire trucks and everything. Just crazy. Threw
5 my son to the ground when they got in the church and
6 handcuffed him. One pulled a gun out.

7 The police did not try to deescalate the situation
8 at all. They were unnecessarily brutal. They literally
9 threw him down and handcuffed him for having a panic attack.

10 My son needed help getting to a hospital, not to be
11 treated like a criminal.

12 Today my son is still terrified by police officers.
13 I literally have to calm him down because CPD continues to
14 use violence against people with disabilities, especially
15 black people.

16 And I'm not even gonna tell you about what happened
17 to my son in 2004. Glory to God. Violence that is totally
18 unnecessary and avoidable.

19 The consent decree requires CPD to make real
20 changes in how they treat people with disabilities, but the
21 City is refusing to act. The monitor's most recent report
22 found that the City has not reached any amount of compliance
23 with 22 consent decree requirements related to crisis
24 intervention.

25 The first step is, CPD needs to train all officers

1 to recognize when someone might be behaving a certain way due
2 to a disability and to deescalate incidents like the one my
3 son was in. But deescalation training is just a start.

4 The CPD needs to change its culture from treating
5 people with disabilities like threats to treating people with
6 disabilities with human dignity.

7 The goal must be to prevent people with mental
8 health issues from entering the prison system. Instead of
9 arrest and police violence, the City needs to invest in
10 mental health providers that can treat people who are in
11 crisis, like my son was. We don't need crisis intervention.
12 We need crisis -- I'm sorry. We don't just need crisis
13 intervention. We need crisis prevention.

14 What's missing is leadership from the mayor.
15 Change starts from the top. That means the mayor. The mayor
16 is pushing these problems under the rug. We know she can get
17 tough when she wants to. She needs to make implementing the
18 consent decree a priority. She needs to act like it's her
19 child whose life is on the line, because our children's lives
20 are.

21 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you very much,
22 Ms. Smith.

23 MS. SMITH: The consent decree has been in place
24 for almost four years, and nothing has changed on the ground.
25 Can't wait any longer. Change is now.

1 Thank you for hearing me.

2 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, Ms. Smith.

3 Raven Geary?

4 (No response.)

5 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Is Anjanette Young with us?

6 Ms. Young, if you want to step forward?

7 I'll try to let you know when you have about a

8 minute left, Ms. Young.

9 MS. YOUNG: Good morning, everyone.

10 To the judges on the bench and everyone in the
11 courtroom, I want to first ask that everyone look up from
12 their tablets and their books and look directly at me.

13 I'm asking for that because on February 21st, 2019,
14 when 12 male officers raided my home, they treated me as I
15 was invisible. So I want all of you guys to see me, and I
16 want you to hear me, and I want you to see that everyone who
17 has come up here to speak today have not looked like any of
18 you that are sitting on these front rows. It's because it
19 doesn't happen in your community.

20 And so all the other women who have stood up here
21 today and expressed the same situation that I am about to
22 share about myself, it's happening in black and brown
23 communities. And we need you guys that are standing here
24 saying that you are committed to making change to make real
25 change.

1 I prepared something, but my passion for what I
2 have heard everybody else say makes me want to put that down
3 and talk directly to you, and specifically to the police
4 officers who are in this room today.

5 It's one thing to put change in place with policies
6 and consent decrees, but the training that the officers
7 need -- if an officer doesn't come with a level of compassion
8 for human dignity, you can train them for as many hours as
9 you want to. It does not change the results.

10 So if they don't have human compassion when they
11 come to the academy, they don't need to work in our cities,
12 because each of us who stood up here today, we are taxpayers.
13 We pay the officers' salary when they come to work every day.
14 We deserve to be treated with human dignity regardless of the
15 circumstances that lead them into our homes and our doors.

16 And like the other women who spoke, when they
17 kicked in my door and they pointed guns at me and they yelled
18 at me and they cursed at me, and they left my home in
19 shambles, they did not fix my door that night. So how am I
20 supposed to feel safe after what they done to me and my home?

21 I'm a licensed clinical social worker in my
22 profession. And I know what it feels like to have to work
23 and treat families who have trauma, and now I'm the person
24 with the trauma.

25 I live with PTSD. I live with major depression.

1 And so for me to be able to get up on a daily basis and
2 function with some level of normalcy so that I can go to work
3 and continue to be the great social worker that I have
4 desired to always be, we need police to do things
5 differently.

6 It's a call to action for every woman that has
7 stood up here and talked about how the City of Chicago Police
8 Department has treated us. It's not right. And we're asking
9 the judges and everyone in this room that we need real change
10 right now.

11 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, Ms. Young.

12 I just want to point out to you, Ms. Young, and to
13 everybody here, I know very much that I don't fall into the
14 category of people that get abused by the police very often.
15 I realize that life is different for people. And I'm trying
16 my best to understand that deeply, and I really appreciate
17 your being here.

18 And that's why I have looked you all in the face.
19 That is very important to me. I need to hear this testimony,
20 and I take the views of all of you very seriously.

21 So thank you for stepping forward. I know it's
22 never easy to talk about episodes in your past, especially
23 when you are suffering from it still. So thank you.

24 MS. YOUNG: Thank you.

25 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Tramaine Jones, I believe,

1 is next.

2 (No response.)

3 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: We had the name Christopher
4 Huff, but I think that person is off the list for right now.

5 Matt Martin, are you with us?

6 Mr. Martin, I will give you an indication when you
7 are getting close to the end here.

8 MR. MARTIN: Okay. Thank you, Judge. Thank you
9 both for the opportunity to speak today and for convening
10 this hearing.

11 My name is Matt Martin. I'm the current alderman
12 in Chicago's 47th Ward.

13 I wanted to come here to share some of my insights
14 that are informed largely by conversations that I'm
15 continuing to have with residents, as well as other experts
16 and folks who have lived experience throughout the city.

17 First, I think that it bears emphasizing that we
18 are continuing to make some amount of progress, whether you
19 look at percentages of compliance with various consent decree
20 paragraphs -- foot pursuit policy, compliance in particular
21 with departments like the Inspector General's Office, COPA,
22 the police board.

23 But I think clearly what I continue to hear and
24 what we have heard today is that we are still struggling, in
25 particular with the police department, but not exclusively.

1 And that while my colleagues on City Council and myself will
2 continue to do what we can in terms of improving
3 accountability and transparency, the fact of the matter is
4 that over the last several decades, if our elected
5 institutions had done the job that folks have demanded and
6 needed, we wouldn't be here today.

7 So while we are committed to doing a better job, we
8 recognize that through this process, including with the two
9 of you, that more is needed in terms of holding the City
10 accountable.

11 Some of the things that I wanted to focus my
12 testimony on are a little bit underdiscussed in the hearing
13 thus far, but still really important. Issues around, as the
14 monitoring team and others have noted, inadequate community
15 engagement and input that too often is included once policies
16 are largely or almost fully baked. That's something that
17 obviously needs to change.

18 I have also heard from a number of folks and seen
19 firsthand that the collection, the management, the analysis
20 of data needs serious improvement, not just with the police
21 department but also the law department. I have seen that
22 with use-of-force issues, crisis intervention, calls, and
23 even misconduct lawsuits.

24 The Inspector General's Office recently shined a
25 spotlight on the fact that the law department, among others,

1 really needs to do a better job when it comes to analyzing
2 data for purposes of understanding both for individuals and
3 institutions and processes where we need improvement.

4 Also, I want to express the concern that I have and
5 many others in my community with Bob Boik's recent firing of
6 this head of CPD's Office of Constitutional Policing, and my
7 hope that this court, among others, will help ensure that we
8 don't face what I perceive to be a false choice between
9 improved training and the resource allocation that needs to
10 happen at a patrol level. I think that, in fact, we need the
11 former to happen more often so that the latter happens in the
12 ways that we need.

13 Finally, I want to underscore the needs around
14 mental health, both from the officer standpoint and the
15 community standpoint.

16 Crisis intervention training is improving, but it's
17 not happening at the pace that I think we need. I think a
18 good example of that is with these crisis intervention teams
19 that are responding, they are only covering three or four of
20 our police districts right now. We have 22, of course.

21 And also, they are happening between 9 and 5 p.m.
22 We see a lot of these calls happening later in the evening on
23 weekends. So that's something that will improve for
24 officers. It also improves for the public, because, at the
25 end of the day, we need officers to be at their best so that

1 with interactions and, ultimately, when force may need to be
2 used, that it happens in a constitutional and moral way.

3 Thank you.

4 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, Mr. Martin.

5 JUDGE DOW: Alderman, if I could hold you for one
6 second?

7 MR. MARTIN: Sure.

8 JUDGE DOW: It's not often -- we have seen lots of
9 people in this process. We haven't seen aldermen.

10 So the testimony this morning is so powerful. And
11 I will say, what we have mainly focused on is policies. You
12 got to start somewhere.

13 And what we now have is policies. And I think
14 that's the one area where all of the speakers before, the
15 community members, but all the lawyers essentially agree that
16 we have better policies.

17 After policies comes training. After training
18 comes implementation. After implementation comes
19 accountability. And after all of that comes internalization.

20 I think what all the community members are
21 emphasizing -- and this is something I have always felt,
22 too -- is, it's only at the end where it will be felt
23 throughout the community. And that's a shame.

24 I would like this to go faster, believe me. I have
25 spent -- of all the cases I have had, this is by far the one

1 that's caused me most consternation because I want it to go
2 faster.

3 So much of this is about resources. And this is
4 where I wonder if the City Council could play a role, too,
5 because -- you referenced Bob Boik.

6 We all worked very closely with Bob Boik. He made
7 a lot of great things happen. The dispute he had with the
8 superintendent was really a function of resources. The
9 superintendent wanted more officers on the street. Bob
10 wanted people who were working on reform with all of us. In
11 the ideal world, that choice would not have needed to be
12 made.

13 In the ideal world, Chicago wouldn't be down
14 2,000 police officers from what the sworn complement is. In
15 the ideal world, there would be a lot more people working on
16 many of the issues that have been raised this morning and the
17 reason that the department is in compliance with three out of
18 64 -- whatever the rubric is.

19 If there were more people to review use-of-force
20 incidents, if there were -- if COPA moved faster, all of it's
21 about resources.

22 And I am wondering if there is something -- if you
23 would take that back to your City Counsel colleagues, because
24 this consent decree, when it was entered into, is a contract
25 between the Attorney General, the State of Illinois, and the

1 mayor of the City of Chicago, however you want to phrase
2 that, the two contracting parties. And as soon as that
3 contract was entered, it was a commitment to provide the
4 resources necessary to get compliance.

5 If we had 30 percent more resources, we would
6 probably be 30 percent further down the road. And many of
7 the things that I can identify myself and many of the
8 conversations I have had with the monitor, with all the
9 lawyers, with the mayor, with the Attorney General have all
10 been: they need more resources.

11 Now, that's -- you know, you have to raise taxes.
12 It's complicated. But many of the problems we see, none of
13 this -- it's all a continuum here. And what everybody in the
14 community is saying is, we don't feel this yet. And I get
15 that, and I'm sorry about that. I wish that I could say we
16 had more to feel in the community.

17 But it's all -- people have to be trained. People
18 have to be held accountable. And all those things require
19 resources.

20 So thank you for hearing me out on that. I hope
21 you will take that back to your colleagues, because I think
22 if there were more resources, we would all feel better.

23 MR. MARTIN: May I make one quick response to
24 that --

25 JUDGE DOW: Sure.

1 MR. MARTIN: -- if you will indulge me?

2 I completely agree. And I think that that
3 continuum point is an important one, because we can look at
4 the resources, at least from a budget, in terms of what we
5 have allocated. And we have allocated funds to hire many new
6 officers. We have 1,000 budgeted vacancies -- over 1,000,
7 most of which are in patrol, some of which are detectives.
8 We are going to struggle to fill those positions over the
9 next year, to say nothing of retention for existing officers.

10 So I think that that's a point where we say, well,
11 what can would we do with what we have right now?

12 Even hiring new officers, it's about 18 months to
13 get through the academy field-training program. So when I'm
14 thinking about what we have right now it's, can we answer the
15 simple question of, how many officers are doing work that a
16 civilian should do? We don't have an answer to that right
17 now.

18 So as much as I think the dollars are important,
19 just like so many other issues, as you underscore it, it's
20 more complicated, it's nor nuanced. I will definitely take
21 that point back to my colleagues.

22 Thank you.

23 JUDGE DOW: These are all huge points. The fact
24 that you bothered to come today shows me that you are
25 committed to this. So I thought it would be an opportunity

1 for me to make a pitch to you. So thank you.

2 MR. MARTIN: Thank you, Judge. Thank you both.

3 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Are there any of the
4 individuals -- oh, Ms. Hickey?

5 MS. HICKEY: Your Honor, I was going to ask if you
6 would recall the names?

7 And then, also, if there is anyone in the audience
8 that is actually scheduled for this afternoon, perhaps if
9 they could speak now, it would allow them to return to their
10 jobs or their families.

11 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: I was about to make that
12 exact suggestion.

13 First, let me ask, are there people that were
14 scheduled for this morning, maybe you weren't in the
15 courtroom when your name was called?

16 Yes?

17 MS. JOHNSON: I haven't been called yet, but I was
18 scheduled.

19 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Oh, I'm sorry. What is
20 your name?

21 MS. JOHNSON: Carolyn Johnson.

22 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Okay. You know what? I
23 somehow missed that. It doesn't appear --

24 MS. HICKEY: She is No. 21.

25 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: You are one of the

1 afternoon speakers, but if you would like to speak now, we
2 would be happy to call you now.

3 MS. JOHNSON: Yes.

4 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: That would be fine.

5 And while she was stepping up, let me ask, is there
6 anybody else who's scheduled for this afternoon that would
7 like to be heard now?

8 (No response.)

9 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Anybody who we called
10 earlier that wasn't -- or anybody who was scheduled for this
11 morning but you didn't get to speak yet?

12 (No response.)

13 MR. WILKINS: I'm No. 55.

14 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: What was your number?

15 JUDGE DOW: Mr. Wilkins.

16 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Mr. Wilkins, we will call
17 you in just a moment.

18 Right now we have Ms. Johnson, Ms. Carolyn Johnson.

19 And I am going to turn on the timer and let you
20 know when you have got about a minute to go.

21 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you, Judge Pallmeyer, and
22 Judge Dow, and everyone here.

23 JUDGE DOW: Could you pull the microphone down just
24 a bit. There you go. Thank you so much.

25 MS. JOHNSON: My name is Carolyn Johnson. I'm here

1 to help out with the decree for the police officers.

2 My son was 13 years old, and he was tortured by a
3 group of detectives. I was standing right there when the
4 officer got out of the car and grabbed my son off the
5 telephone booth.

6 And I ran out of the restaurant and said, "This is
7 my son. He with me. And what do you want with him?"

8 He said, "We taking him in for questioning of a
9 shooting."

10 I say, "Well, I'm going with him because I'm his
11 mom."

12 I have three kids. I adopted one, and I'm a single
13 parent.

14 He took my son -- he kidnapped my son and told me I
15 could not come with him. I didn't understand because when
16 you're a juvenile, your parents are supposed to go with you
17 to these offices -- police stations.

18 They electric shocked him, spit in his face, beat
19 him in his chest, called him a nigger, made him sign two
20 different statements that put him in the -- at the scene of
21 the crime when there was a witness there that testified and
22 that told them that my son wasn't there.

23 He was exonerated. The judge said that was the
24 weakest case he ever seen in his life, to let that child go
25 home with his parents.

1 These same officers, my son was 17 years old. I
2 moved. They didn't know that I moved to Wisconsin because I
3 got out of there, because I knew that we would still be in
4 trouble. One of the officers was fired. But the ones that
5 did it to my son wasn't fired. They should have been fired.

6 Then, come to find out, my son is disabled because
7 of the torture. I am disabled because of the wrongful
8 conviction and the torture that they did.

9 He did 30 days. He was exonerated. His case was
10 cleared. These detectives violated their own agreement to
11 wrongfully convict him to 46 years in prison for another case
12 he had no -- nothing to do with, nowhere around, in
13 retaliation because of the other officer was fired.

14 They tried to implicate him in another murder in
15 '94, but they didn't know we was in Wisconsin. And by us
16 living in Wisconsin, found out that my son was in school.
17 Wasn't even there -- nowhere here in Chicago. Just like the
18 other people that was wrongfully convicted and tortured was
19 in jail when they put a case on them.

20 But these detectives, I feel, are above the law. I
21 know they said people ain't above the law, but for them to be
22 working on these many years after I found out getting
23 involved, I was mentally -- I have PTSD. My son have it now.
24 He did 22 and a half years.

25 These same detectives had an order of -- it was an

1 order -- the Judge Strayhorn put an order of protection for
2 them not to go nowhere near my son.

3 These officers, they was above the law. They took
4 it upon themselves, and they just wrote up a false police
5 report and gave my son 46 years for a crime he did not
6 commit.

7 It took an attorney from New York to come here and
8 represent my son after he did 22 and a half years. He got
9 out. He didn't want disability. He relived the torture. So
10 do I. I had a nervous breakdown. I have been in a mental
11 institution. I feel paranoid, looking around every time I
12 see -- because these same detectives -- I don't even know how
13 they get to even stay on the force.

14 Your Honor, I thank you all. And I thank God that
15 we do have someone to help get this over with, because all
16 these years from way back there -- all polices are not bad.
17 I know they not. I wanted to be one, but now I don't. I'm
18 afraid.

19 So I started trying to -- took classes of private
20 investigating because of so much stuff I found wrong in my
21 son's case. And when I had the nervous breakdown, everything
22 went away. So I'm trying to -- I passed two of these exams.
23 I'm trying to get back to it so I can, because I want to be a
24 help to the city.

25 These police officers need to be held accountable

1 for what they have done. They have a pattern of what they
2 have done.

3 My son came home, didn't want to be in prison. Now
4 he can't even work because a disk in his back is messed up.

5 But I just want to thank you all for giving me the
6 chance to speak and thank everybody here that's been fighting
7 for us.

8 I'm still going through the PTSD, and my son is
9 still getting counseled. We go to the torture center. We
10 get counseled sometimes.

11 But ain't no way these officers supposed to still
12 be on this force with all these patterns, proof, evidence.
13 It's a shame. And I thank you all so much.

14 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, Ms. Johnson.

15 I think, Mr. Wilkins, you said you are here for
16 this -- you are prepared to speak.

17 MR. WILKINS: I'll wait for the evening.

18 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: I'm sorry?

19 MR. WILKINS: I'll still wait until the evening.
20 We still got some more people coming, so I'll wait.

21 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Well, I'll tell you what.
22 You want to wait until this afternoon. Is that what you are
23 saying?

24 MR. WILKINS: Yes.

25 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Okay. That's fine with me.

1 Are there other people who are here that would like
2 to be heard on the schedule for this morning or on the
3 schedule for this afternoon?

4 (Brief pause.)

5 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: I think we can take -- oh,
6 I'm sorry, sir.

7 MR. CASTRO: My name is Jandrick (phonetic). I
8 don't know if I'm on there.

9 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: What is your last name?

10 MR. CASTRO: Castro.

11 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Castro. Let me just see.

12 (Brief pause.)

13 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: I don't see you on the
14 list, Mr. Castro.

15 If you will keep your comments to three minutes, I
16 will hear from you.

17 I am going to get you started right now.

18 MR. CASTRO: Thank you.

19 My name is Jandrick Castro (phonetic). I'm
20 originally from Orlando, Florida. I moved here, like, five
21 years ago.

22 I say that in hopes that, you know, my comments
23 don't necessarily get discounted but more just as a -- for
24 the sake of perspective.

25 I originally came and thought that I would, like,

1 speak on -- sort of ask some thought-provoking questions with
2 the hopes that they would be maybe somewhat productive.

3 But I think, after listening to you guys speak and
4 listening to the community members speak, I'm reminded of two
5 things -- that this is sort of a manifestation of segregation
6 in Chicago, just by the very dynamics of who is here leading
7 this discussion on progress and also who is here in the
8 community -- representing the community.

9 I think that it's also -- you have these people of
10 the pale persuasion coming up here talking about reform,
11 talking about how we're going to make these adjustments, and
12 talking about the lack of accountability or lack of, you
13 know, completion of certain aspects of the consent decree. I
14 think it, more or less, speaks to the overexpectation we have
15 of police officers here in Chicago, that we expect them to do
16 way too much. We expect them to protect people.

17 You know, they don't really -- they don't stop
18 crimes. I feel like that's a misconception that we are all
19 led to believe. We are misguided in thinking that these
20 people in uniform and everyone they represent are anything
21 more than outdated slave patrols.

22 You know, we expect them to solve crimes as well,
23 but they can't do that. I mean, the clearance rate -- the
24 only thing worse than the clearance rate for homicide in
25 Chicago is the clearance rate for police officers who commit

1 acts of violence against community members.

2 So I think -- I myself am not a reformist. I'm an
3 abolitionist in every sense of the word. I think we should
4 explore, instead of diversions, alternatives, you know,
5 alternatives to policing. What does that look like?

6 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: One more minute.

7 MR. CASTRO: We're building this -- you know,
8 you're talking about -- over here you're talking about --
9 Judge Dow talking about how, you know, after policies comes
10 training and after training comes implementation, but we're
11 not talking about what comes before policies. We're not
12 talking about infrastructure in place -- infrastructure in
13 place. And that's why I described police officers as
14 outdated slave patrols, because that's what they are, because
15 that's the infrastructure we built.

16 So I encourage you guys to think critically about
17 that going forward. I encourage us to expect less of the
18 police.

19 And we're talking about providing resources.
20 Resources for what? If they're not doing their job with what
21 they have at the expectation that they have -- if we increase
22 by 30 percent, we decreasing 30 percent of -- that, to me, is
23 an unrealistic expectation, based off of misguided notions
24 that the police are here to protect and serve us, and that's
25 not the case.

1 I feel like the consent decree is a beautiful thing
2 that exists in Chicago because it doesn't exist in Florida.
3 It doesn't.

4 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you.

5 MR. MARTIN: Thank you.

6 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: All right. Anyone else who
7 is here scheduled for this afternoon or for this morning?

8 (No response.)

9 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: I know Mr. Wilkins is
10 scheduled for this afternoon. We will see him this
11 afternoon.

12 The rest of you -- well, all of you actually, we
13 could take our lunch recess at this time.

14 We are scheduled to get started again at 2:00
15 o'clock. Given the need to go through security and the like,
16 I would encourage you to get here earlier than that so you
17 are ready to go right at 2:00, when we resume.

18 I want to thank everyone for your courteous
19 attention this morning, and I look forward to seeing some of
20 you again this afternoon.

21 All rise.

22 THE CLERK: Court is in recess.

23 (A luncheon recess was taken at 12:09 p.m.)
24
25

1 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
 2 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
 3 EASTERN DIVISION

4	STATE OF ILLINOIS,	}	
5	Plaintiff,	}	Docket No. 17 C 6260
6	vs.	}	
7	CITY OF CHICAGO,	}	Chicago, Illinois
8	Defendant.	}	November 29, 2022 2:00 p.m.

9 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS - Hearing
 10 BEFORE THE HONORABLE CHIEF JUDGE REBECCA R. PALLMEYER and
 11 HONORABLE ROBERT M. DOW, JR.

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20 DR. LAURA CANARD
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1 (The following proceedings were had in open court)

2 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Good afternoon.

3 I want to welcome you to the hearing this
4 afternoon. Welcome you back, in many cases. For those of
5 you who weren't here this morning, I just want you to know
6 that my name is Rebecca Pallmeyer. I'm the judge to whom the
7 case is now being assigned.

8 We are sorry to be saying farewell very soon to my
9 colleague Judge Dow, who has been involved in this consent
10 decree and its enforcement since its beginning in 2019, but
11 we know that he is going to serve the nation well in his new
12 position in DC.

13 And I will do my best to fill his very large shoes
14 and to do what I can to make sure that this consent decree is
15 enforced appropriately and with an appropriate level of
16 assertiveness and speed.

17 Judge Dow, any comments you want to make?

18 JUDGE DOW: I just want to thank everybody for
19 being here.

20 I think this morning demonstrated the powerful
21 testimony that we wanted to hear and some updates, also, from
22 the lawyers. I'm just so happy we were able to get this in
23 while I was still here. And thank you for letting me
24 participate.

25 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: I think our next speaker --

1 the speaker that was first on the afternoon's calendar,
2 Carolyn Johnson, we heard from her earlier today.

3 But the next person on our list is Michael
4 Harrington.

5 Mr. Harrington, if you are here, I am going to
6 invite you to step forward.

7 (No response.)

8 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Maybe not yet? All right.

9 Let me just ask before I go further down the list,
10 are there people who were scheduled to be here this morning
11 and did not make it and would like to be heard now -- people
12 that were on the list for this morning?

13 (No response.)

14 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: I do know that -- I
15 understand that Miracle Boyd is with us. And we are going to
16 plug her into one of the open slots in just a few minutes
17 here.

18 All right. Next would be Jaime Silva.

19 (No response.)

20 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Nobody here for Jaime
21 Silva? All right.

22 Leticia Horton.

23 (No response.)

24 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: I am going to recall these
25 people. Perhaps they will be here in a little while.

1 Miracle Boyd, are you here with us?

2 (No response.)

3 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: No. Not yet. All right.

4 Next would be James Gibson.

5 (No response.)

6 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: For those of you keeping
7 score, we are going to be done a little earlier than I
8 expected.

9 Rebecca Cook.

10 All right. Ms. Cook, I like your first name. You
11 are welcome to step up.

12 I am going to give you the same three minutes that
13 the other speakers got, and I will try to let you know after
14 two minutes that you have got one left so you will be able to
15 kind of keep track.

16 MS. COOK: Okay. Thank you. I thought I would
17 have a minute to step in, but I will just start speaking.

18 My name is Rebecca Cook. I am a member of the
19 Chicago West Side branch of the NAACP.

20 I have been a part of the Campbell coalition for
21 the past five years. I like to pride myself on saying I was
22 the first one to say, let's just sue them. Okay?

23 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: You were the first what?

24 MS. COOK: To say, let's just sue them. Let's just
25 get it done with.

1 We can't get any leeway by saying, let's meet.
2 Let's have a conversation and talk about how we can come to a
3 place where everyone can live peaceably.

4 At the time that we got started, we were dealing
5 with a lot of officers who were just kind of getting away
6 with murder, literally. There was no repercussions for it.

7 And now we are looking at some five years later,
8 and things are only really better because the newspaper puts
9 it out now and says that these are still atrocities that are
10 occurring and that something should be done about it.

11 But as far as having policies and processes and
12 procedures that are running within the Chicago Police
13 Department, we are not seeing them in the way that they need
14 to be there.

15 I am a part of a volunteer organization with the
16 NAACP. So I got the pleasure of spending all of my vacations
17 and off time and time when I should have just been at home
18 chilling trying to write the people's consent decree; trying
19 to say, well, we don't -- we don't believe that police should
20 just not exist. At least NAACP does not. We believe that
21 they should exist, but we believe that they should exist with
22 some kind of rules and regulation.

23 So I spent a lot of my free time trying to write
24 what those rules and regulations would look like.

25 Part of my committee, I had ex-officers,

1 ex-detectives. We had attorneys. We had citizens. We had a
2 conglomerate of people.

3 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: One minute left.

4 MS. COOK: So we are not just hearing from one side
5 about what this looks like.

6 And now five years later, we still haven't gotten
7 anywhere further. A lot of the things that were really
8 important to us as a civil rights organization, such as
9 diversion, have been completely dismissed.

10 We have been ridden over by a lot of our large
11 institutions. They have not heard us the way that we need to
12 be heard. And we are still getting calls day after day. "I
13 got my gun taken." "I was shot." "Somebody arrested me in
14 front of my daughter for having a light out of my car."
15 Various things that are occurring in terms of the police that
16 we don't have -- we say, oh, we put a consent decree
17 together. We actually did sue them. And yet we have no
18 recourse for you. Nothing that we can help you with.

19 So I'm here today because I want to make a plea to
20 the Court that the Chicago Police Department, I think they
21 are trying to wait us out. I think they think that because
22 they are paid and we're volunteers and they have people who
23 are paid to give their time to this, that they can just say,
24 you know, if we wait long enough, they will just go away.

25 We don't intend to go away. We intend to continue

1 fighting, because we are fighting for lives, and not just the
2 people that we read about in newspapers -- our friends, our
3 families, and it's costing us.

4 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you.

5 MS. COOK: Thank you.

6 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, Ms. Cook.

7 Benjamin Postone?

8 Sir, if you want to step forward.

9 MR. POSTONE: Good afternoon, your Honors.

10 My name is Ben Postone. I'm a law student at the
11 University of Chicago Law School.

12 I have had the immense privilege and honor to work
13 with members of the community coalition to research national
14 best practices and work with them to turn their personal
15 experiences, many of which you have heard today, into
16 workable policy language.

17 I have watched community members come prepared to
18 engage the City in substantive and meaningful dialogue around
19 CPD home raid policy. And time and again I have seen CPD not
20 only fail to accept the recommendations made by the community
21 but fail to even engage in a meaningful way.

22 As you have heard, there is a clear picture that
23 CPD home raids have overwhelmingly affected black and brown
24 families and evince a pattern of discrimination. And despite
25 the clear injustices in CPD practice and recommendations from

1 organizations like COPA, there has been no accountability.

2 The community has put forward a number of
3 common-sense demands that would protect both the people of
4 the city and the officers who serve it.

5 The first of these requires that officers wait at
6 least 30 seconds before entering a home. Giving people a
7 meaningful opportunity to answer the door protects the safety
8 of both families and police officers. The many powerful
9 testimonies today indicate that the failure to do so in
10 Chicago has been a recipe for disaster.

11 These are also the most dangerous raids for police
12 officers. Between 2010 and 2016, officers were twice as
13 likely to be killed executing a no-knock warrant than any
14 other kind of home raid. Banning no-knock warrants is
15 increasingly becoming the norm, including in Evanston, which
16 just recently passed a ban on no-knock warrants with
17 unanimous support from city council and the approval of their
18 police chief.

19 The community has also asked that there be an end
20 to dangerous nighttime raids. This is another practice that
21 many states and cities have already restricted to only
22 exigent circumstances and thereby prevented countless deaths
23 and serious injures to families and police officers.

24 In both of these --

25 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: One more minute.

1 MR. POSTONE: -- there has been no increase in
2 crime in those states and cities that have implemented these
3 policies.

4 The community demands that CPD include
5 harm-reduction principles in its search warrant policy. Not
6 only is this a matter of common sense, but it has already
7 implemented these principles in its use-of-force policy.

8 The community insists that CPD make concrete
9 changes to its policies regarding children. The effects of
10 not doing so, you have heard time and time again today.

11 And lastly, another common sense policy that the
12 community demands is that CPD fix what it breaks. Current
13 policies leave homes unsecured and open to crime. Whether
14 the raid was a wrong raid or not, CPD ought to reduce harm,
15 not create situations in which crime can flourish.

16 Thank you.

17 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, sir.

18 That was Benjamin Postone.

19 Mr. Catanzara.

20 (No response.)

21 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Jasmine Vale. Is Jasmine
22 Vale with us?

23 (No response.)

24 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Keisha Dacre.

25 MS. DACRE: Good afternoon, everyone.

1 My name is Keisha Dacre, and I'm a black resident
2 of West Rogers Park. I'm an immigrant. I'm a single, proud
3 mother and grandmother.

4 I'm a volunteer leader for ONE Northside, a
5 grassroots community organization. ONE Northside is part of
6 the coalition of community groups that help to enforce the
7 consent decree.

8 I have experienced many injustices, but today I am
9 here to speak about how the Chicago police treated my son and
10 my nephew. These are, to me, two stories, examples that show
11 two sides of the same problem with the Chicago Police
12 Department.

13 On one hand, young black men in Chicago, like my
14 nephew George, often are victimized by violent crimes and
15 left unprotected. This makes me feel like the police don't
16 value those black lives.

17 Then, on the other hand, there are young black men
18 in Chicago, like my son Dante, who are being overpoliced and
19 constantly harassed.

20 My nephew George was riding in a car on Lake Shore
21 Drive in 2016 on what would be his first and last Father's
22 Day. He was tragically shot and killed that evening. George
23 was only 21 years old and a first-time father of a
24 ten-week-old son.

25 George was dropped off and left for dead on the

1 street in front of the Chicago police headquarters on
2 35th Street.

3 Though this shooting made -- was profiled on the
4 news, the police did nothing. They told the newspapers that
5 George was a documented gang member. To me, that meant they
6 did not care, a feeling that's been validated to me because
7 there was no investigation.

8 They released the person from custody and told us,
9 the family of the victim, to investigate on our own, which
10 led to our family being labeled as snitches and being
11 threatened by people in the neighborhood.

12 How does something so blatant happen at police
13 headquarters and there isn't even a surveillance of his
14 nearly dead body being discarded? If this were a white
15 person, in my opinion, they had -- I have no doubt that the
16 outcome would be different.

17 By their own language, he was a documented gang
18 member. And I guess that means, to us, that he or his family
19 does not deserve justice, and that is wrong.

20 My son Dante was --

21 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: One more minute.

22 MS. DACRE: -- harassed so badly by the Chicago
23 police that he had to move out of state. He had to move away
24 to save his life and his freedom.

25 A close friend of ours' son was shot and killed

1 near a corner store, and the police showed up and found a
2 gun. They singled my son out. They arrested him and
3 announced on the second page of the newspaper that he was a
4 gang chief. They alleged that the gun belonged to him and
5 that he was going to retaliate for a dead relative.

6 Dante was put in custody for months on months,
7 where they then put him on trial for his life. He then beat
8 all the charges against him.

9 The police were still relentless. They wouldn't
10 let up on him. They wouldn't stop harassing him, arresting
11 him for the simplest things every time, practically, he
12 walked out the door. So as a mother, that is very painful to
13 me.

14 I shouldn't have to stress and worry and be afraid
15 every time my sons, who are young, black men, walk out the
16 door, but I do.

17 I think the police don't see black people as
18 people. I feel officers need to learn empathy and humility
19 and should be punished if they don't treat all people fairly
20 and with respect.

21 They continue to act rude and accusatory and be
22 bullies. They are racist at times, demanding respect because
23 they wear a uniform, all while being disrespectful to the
24 people that they swore an oath to serve and protect.

25 I thank you for hearing me today.

1 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, Ms. Dacre.
2 Aisha Oliver.

3 MS. OLIVER: Good afternoon. Thank you all.

4 I am Aisha Oliver. I am the strategy leader and
5 founder of Root2fruit Youth Foundation on the west side of
6 Chicago in the Austin community.

7 I am here as a parent, as a resident, but also as a
8 leader and voice for young people who live in my community.

9 In June of this year, we launched our second year
10 of the Austin Safety Action Plan, which is a public safety
11 action plan put together by 15 young black men between the
12 ages of 15 and 22 within my community, through their lens of
13 what safety looks like.

14 We had a successful kickoff event at our local park
15 district on that sunny Thursday in June. About 10:00 p.m.
16 that night, after everything was wrapped up, we were all
17 gone. Some of the young people were still hanging outside.
18 Unfortunately, a group of officers, who did not look like
19 those same young, black men, pulled up and pulled guns on the
20 young, black men, who were all wearing these hoodies that
21 clearly say "ASAP" and "Protect our 'hood" on the back of
22 them.

23 One of our young men was chased down. The gun was
24 pointed at him. Where someone pulled out their cameras, you
25 can hear the footage that was sent to me that night. I,

1 unfortunately, fell asleep. You can hear the young people in
2 the background yelling my name for someone to call me.

3 "Please, someone call Ms. Aisha."

4 And then you can hear the young people yelling in
5 the background, "Please just look at what he's wearing. Look
6 at his shirt. Look at his shirt." Trying to explain to them
7 that they were not part of any riffraff. But instead, they
8 were actually trying to create a safe place, to enhance what
9 officers are supposed to be doing in their own neighborhoods.

10 So I stand here today on behalf of Dimontae Dudley,
11 as well as Lorraine Moore, as well as Lester Bradford, four
12 different incidents in this one summer of action that we have
13 put together. This is our second year.

14 CPD gave us their own data showing that, in the
15 past two years, we dropped violence in that particular safe
16 zone 30 to 52 percent, which we thought was a great way for
17 us to not only work with officers in our district and in our
18 community, but it turned out that that same evening I lost a
19 lot of young men who trusted what CPD was supposed to be
20 doing. It completely went out the window, all of the work
21 that they had done.

22 It really discouraged those young men. And at this
23 point, we have had several incidents with those same officers
24 to the point where we have had to reach out to COPA because
25 of these incidents. It is harassment.

1 What I would love to see is officers to sit down
2 with us. We are not looking for an apology. We are not
3 looking for anyone to mend anything. We have come up in the
4 past four months with our own strategy of what community
5 engagement looks like within a community of color.

6 These young people want to leave that with CPD and
7 all of those who will be taking place and taking up residence
8 in our community at the joint police and fire academy on
9 Chicago Avenue. If they are going to be in our
10 neighborhoods, they need to know how to not only engage with
11 us but connect with us.

12 They should know that not all young, black men or
13 women are criminals. If you -- that is not something that
14 you can actually make people see. It is something that they
15 have to realize on their own, and that comes from the work.

16 These young people are very adamant about the work.
17 This is what I need them to do. This is how I teach them.
18 This is how I am training them. They are the say-soers of
19 their community. This is their community. They should have
20 stake in it.

21 No one should be able to come into their community
22 and harass them and make them feel like they don't belong
23 because of the color of their skin.

24 We have done a very good job with trying to make
25 sure that these young people understand that not all officers

1 are bad. But when a handful of them make you feel that way,
2 you can look at the entire district and say, "F12," and
3 that's exactly what these young people say nowadays.

4 So in order for CPD to actually want to make the
5 change that they continuously say that they want to see by
6 protecting and serving, I need them to take the lens off and
7 understand that we are not all the same. We are not all
8 criminals. We do not deserve to be looked at that way, and
9 that young, black men in our community actually want to make
10 change. They don't want to be a part of any riffraff.

11 And in order to do that, we need CPD to take the
12 lens off, be a part of the communities in which they are
13 going to be serving actively, and sit at the table with us
14 and have us to teach them what it means to do community
15 engagement in communities of color.

16 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you very much. Thank
17 you, Ms. Oliver.

18 Nancy Rodriguez?

19 (No response.)

20 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Jacque or Jacque Stefanic?

21 Is it Jacque?

22 MR. STEFANIC: Jacque, yes.

23 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Jacque.

24 Go ahead, sir.

25 MR. STEFANIC: It's Jacque, like a high school

1 jock.

2 So thank you for allowing me to speak today.

3 My name is Jacque Stefanic. I am a Chicago native.
4 I was born in Chicago. And I'm also a youth community leader
5 here. So I'm the executive director of Serving People with a
6 Mission. It is a youth-led nonprofit here in Chicago. As
7 well, I'm also employed at the City Colleges of Chicago.

8 In addition, I'm also taking citizens academy at
9 the Chicago Police Academy so I can learn more about the
10 internal operations of the Chicago Police Department to work
11 to build bridges between our communities and our police
12 force. And I'm the youngest member of the cohort. I'm 23
13 years old.

14 I want to go on by saying that Chicago is a major
15 city in our country, and we have the second largest police
16 force in the country. This means that Chicago and our police
17 department, we set a significant example across the entire
18 country when it comes to policing for other police
19 departments.

20 Now, going back to 2017, when this consent decree
21 was introduced, there has not really been any major
22 improvements in terms of building a better relationship
23 between the Chicago police and the Chicago community. In
24 other words, there is still no trust between the Chicago
25 Police Department and the Chicago community members.

1 In fact, many factors, such as the pandemic and the
2 2020 riots, made that gap bigger. And many members of the
3 community do not see the Chicago Police Department as a
4 resource nor do they see them as friends or any sort of
5 acquaintance.

6 Neighborhoods are policed differently based off
7 their demographics. Policing tactics are used to hurt people
8 and create a bigger divide by essentially policing them
9 differently based off solely south side and west side -- west
10 side neighborhoods more specifically.

11 On the conversation of youth, many teenagers and
12 young adults are scared of the Chicago police when they are
13 present. Just a fact of an officer wearing light blue and
14 the Ford Explorers doesn't really give a good tone to many
15 young people, at least the ones that I'm around.

16 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: One more minute.

17 MR. STEFANIC: Youth tend to, honestly, get
18 disrespected by a lot of police officers due to their age.

19 But this begs a question. Why is the Chicago
20 police and the community still not building good
21 relationships with each other? And that is because the
22 Chicago Police Department is seen as an occupying force in
23 many community members' eyes.

24 If this norm continues to happen, we will not have
25 a good relationship with the Chicago Police Department and

1 vice versa.

2 Also, community members need to also understand
3 that members of the Chicago Police Department are our
4 friends, are our neighbors. And, honestly, a lot of them are
5 living right next door to us. So it's a two-way street. And
6 it's really a way that's going to enforce the community and
7 the Chicago Police Department essentially to act together to
8 build this divide.

9 And I sit here -- or I stand here, more
10 specifically, to propose to the Court to essentially create
11 more spaces for members of the Chicago Police Department,
12 members of the Chicago community -- youth included -- to have
13 down-to-earth conversations about incidents that happened.
14 It's hard.

15 You know, I actually put together a tour for the
16 youth over the summer at the Chicago police headquarters on
17 35th and -- is it 35th and Michigan Avenue? And we brought a
18 total of almost 25 youth to the Chicago police headquarters,
19 and we had a sit-down conversation about policing, about
20 shootings, and about things that make people upset, things
21 that make people sad, and things that make people nervous.
22 And we had that conversation, and I believe we need to have
23 more of those conversations so we can actually build
24 community bridges.

25 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, Mr. Stefanic.

1 MR. STEFANIC: So that's all I have to say. And
2 thank you for your time.

3 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, Mr. Stefanic.
4 Anthony Tassone.

5 (No response.)

6 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: La'rie Suttle.

7 MS. SUTTLE: Here.

8 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Oh, good.

9 Ms. Suttle, you are welcome to step up.

10 MS. SUTTLE: Good afternoon.

11 May it please the Court? My name is La'rie Suttle.

12 Currently I am 26 years old, a 23-year-old resident of the
13 South Shore community, and graduating student in the master
14 of jurisprudence program at DePaul University College of Law,
15 where I am studying public interest law.

16 At the last federal public community listening
17 session, held in August of 2020, I was a member of the
18 Use of Force Community Working Group for the Chicago Police
19 Department, where I inspected, evaluated, and recommended
20 revisions to the department directives in order to safeguard
21 civil rights, strengthen police community relations based on
22 legitimacy, public confidence, and trust in law enforcement.

23 During this time I expressed grave concerns of
24 unconstitutional policing regarding summer protests, First
25 Amendment rights of individuals, and use of force policies

1 and practices within the Chicago Police Department.

2 In addition to oral testimony, I submitted to the
3 court internally outdated legal bulletins on the use of force
4 in First Amendment activity from the Chicago Police
5 Department. At this time, this was the only internal
6 resource available to members of the public and members of
7 the Chicago Police Department.

8 The outcome from the Use of Force Community Working
9 Group was an article issued by the Chicago *Sun-Times* reporter
10 Sam Charles in October of 2020 stating, "CPD announced last
11 week that it rejected the vast majority of the
12 155 recommended" charges -- "changes to the use of force
13 policy. The department added that 42 of the recommendations
14 had already been adopted into its current policy, 30 other
15 recommendations were deemed not operationally feasible,
16 50 other recommendations would directly contradict the City's
17 consent decree or state law and cannot be legally adopted,
18 and 28 recommendations were deemed not relevant to the
19 use-of-force policy."

20 Shortly after resigning the Use of Force Community
21 Working Group, I became a community policy review member for
22 the Civilian Office of Police Accountability where I assessed
23 internal data, policies, and practices of public interest by
24 comparing, identifying, reviewing, and providing oral and
25 written strategies to avoid or mitigate identified risks of

1 police misconduct and abuse of authority.

2 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Less than a minute left.

3 MS. SUTTLE: Because there are currently three open
4 investigations involving COPA, I will not comment on the
5 investigative agency's mission, policies, or practices.

6 However, I will leave the Court with this quote by
7 Richard Henry Stoddard in hopes of engaging with
8 investigative and adjudicative agencies more effectively in
9 the near future.

10 "All that you do, do with your might. Things done
11 by halves are never done right."

12 Thank you for your time.

13 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you.

14 Vatsala Kumar.

15 MS. KUMAR: My name is Vatsala Kumar, and I'm a law
16 student at the University of Chicago.

17 Later you will hear from Working Group co-chair
18 Arewa Winters about her experiences and takeaways from the
19 working group process, but I want to tell you a little bit
20 about my experience as a relative outsider stepping in.

21 I had the opportunity to watch as community members
22 devoted hours of unpaid time and effort toward helping make
23 Chicago a better place to live. I helped them research and
24 develop policies, and I saw them carefully consider every
25 aspect of every suggestion they made. And I also saw CPD

1 reject each and every of those recommendations.

2 After CPD and the Working Group completed their
3 negotiations, they agreed to let the community coalition
4 negotiate the remaining unresolved recommendations, in
5 particular on the use of TASERs and chemical weapons.

6 I had the opportunity to participate in those
7 negotiations, and I was stunned by how CPD treated community
8 members.

9 CPD's participation in the process was
10 performative. They would usually show up. They would
11 usually listen to what we had to say, claim that they would
12 take a look at their policies, and then come to the next
13 meeting and do the exact same thing.

14 They demonstrated apathy throughout the process.
15 CPD leadership was condescending and dismissive of community
16 members, instead listening only to their lawyers.

17 CPD strategically delayed the process by coming
18 unprepared to meetings, not providing documents and research
19 when promised, and not respecting the monitor's requests or
20 deadlines.

21 Sometimes CPD outright refused to engage with us.
22 They would shut down and end a conversation when faced with a
23 disagreement.

24 CPD's blatant disrespect in these meetings
25 frustrated the community members and myself. It meant that

1 our hard work and efforts felt totally useless.

2 But sometimes CPD would feel pressure from the
3 monitor, from the Attorney General's office, and from the
4 court, and then they would begin to engage with us. They
5 would give us some feedback in advance, which helped us get
6 to the core of our disagreements and helped us better address
7 them to come to compromises we could all live with.

8 When CPD engaged, we were able to build better
9 relationships and push the needle forward, leading to
10 meaningful changes. But any time CPD felt that the pressure
11 was off, they retreated to their earlier stances.

12 It was extremely disappointing to hear one week,
13 "Yes, we will accept that recommendation," and then the next
14 week, "We have changed our minds."

15 In the end, despite CPD's resistance and
16 reluctance, the coalition accomplished meaningful policy
17 changes, which, if implemented, will prevent real harm. But
18 despite all that we have achieved, there are still many
19 aspects of CPD force policies that need to be immediately
20 addressed.

21 CPD policy must state that pointing a firearm at
22 another human being is a deadly use of force.

23 CPD policy must prohibit using pepper spray when
24 others could be harmed, like into a group of people.

25 CPD policy must state that the use of chemical

1 weapons on someone who is just sitting in a car is
2 prohibited.

3 And CPD policy must prohibit the use of TASERS in
4 schools.

5 The Court has the opportunity to make meaningful
6 change in the lives of every Chicagoan. The Court can do
7 this by holding CPD accountable to the decree and forcing
8 them to make these critical changes to their policy to remedy
9 their ongoing pattern and practice of civil rights
10 violations.

11 History has shown that they will only do this when
12 they are forced by an outside entity like the Court.

13 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you.

14 Daryle Brown.

15 (No response.)

16 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Crista Noel.

17 MS. NOEL: Good afternoon, your Honors.

18 Okay. I'm here to talk about women, the
19 Bland-Chavez Act, and the CAHOOTS program, which is now being
20 fought as Treatment not Trauma.

21 So women, if you ever see a document that doesn't
22 specifically say "women" and "gender," Women's All Points
23 Bulletin, which is a founding coalition member, has not
24 approved of it.

25 As we move forward -- I'm an elder, as the kids

1 call me. I was born in 1960, and I identify as a woman. So
2 I want to see "women" and "gender" and not just "gender." I
3 don't want women to be consumed by gender. I want us to
4 stand until we can stand on our own and we have more control
5 of processes.

6 The Bland-Chavez Act. The Bland-Chavez Act is an
7 act that we are pushing internationally, as well as at the
8 federal level as we stand here, and at the federal level with
9 the U.S. government.

10 It is specifically to stop arbitrary arrest, and it
11 is to provide a special police force for all the protected
12 classes under the hate crimes.

13 For example, Irene Chavez was arrested because she
14 supposedly had words in a bar -- a gay bar -- and she ended
15 up dead. And we don't feel as if that should have happened
16 at all.

17 Sandra Bland ended up dead over a turn signal.

18 Elijah Hudson was just arrested and shackled to a
19 bench for four hours because his sticker on his car was
20 expired, and he had a legal weapon.

21 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: One more minute.

22 MS. NOEL: All documentation in place, but he had a
23 legal weapon.

24 So I would like you to consider the Bland-Chavez
25 Act and the ability to be able to call veterans who are

1 suffering from posttraumatic stress, to be able to call forth
2 special forces; women, if I'm a woman; black supervisor if
3 I'm black. Just the protected classes.

4 And last, CAHOOTS. CAHOOTS is a program that has
5 been going on in Oregon for over 20, 30 years. Your Honor, I
6 mentioned it in August of 2020. It is an unarmed response to
7 the majority of the cases that would be called under 911.

8 I want to say that the 988 number would probably be
9 perfect for the CAHOOTS program.

10 But I do want to present the Court with that
11 information. Right now, it's my understanding that three
12 aldermanic districts have approved of the Treatment not
13 Trauma, which is the unarmed response. And I would like for
14 you to take that into consideration and definitely push it.

15 As far as the Chicago police force is concerned,
16 right now they have what we call CAT cars. That's the crisis
17 assessment -- I forget what the T stands for, but it's the
18 co-responder model. And we have been told by the Chicago
19 Police Department that they feel as if the co-responder model
20 is a good model for training. So just in case they do need a
21 police officer called when an unarmed response is in need,
22 that that police officer knows how to respond. So we are
23 okay with that, but we want to move toward that.

24 The last thing is supporting the Women's Working
25 Group. We are pushing that. We are the first working group

1 that ever existed under the consent decree, and we are trying
2 to get the Chicago Police Department to agree to work with
3 women SMEs, subject matter experts, on policy surrounding
4 women.

5 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you very much,
6 Ms. Noel.

7 MS. NOEL: And I thank you.

8 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you.

9 Paul McKinley.

10 MR. MCKINLEY: Thank you very much, your
11 magistrate.

12 First of all, I would like to give a brief history
13 of the Chicago police concerning the African-American
14 community. I would like to start with Fred Hampton and Mark
15 Clark, a man that was drugged and was shot 80 times in his
16 bed and shot the woman, too, and killed Mark Clark.

17 Now I would like to lead from there, from the '60s,
18 and start in the early '80s, where there was mass rounding-up
19 of African-Americans by the Chicago police -- by the Chicago
20 police. It was called "sweeps."

21 And then I would like to leave from there and talk
22 about Commander Burge. Commander Burge has -- was using
23 World War II torture techniques on African-Americans right
24 here in America, right here in Chicago.

25 I want to talk about the Chicago police who has the

1 largest people who have not committed a crime. This is
2 called the capital of wrongfully convicted, where there were
3 more people on death row that was innocent than was guilty,
4 and they had to shut death row down.

5 I want to talk about Chicago police, who are right
6 now trying to get from underneath this dissent decree. This
7 dissent decree came into effect based on a lot of people
8 coming together from 2000 investigating a group called SOS,
9 which was a police group who went around the city doing
10 contract murders, which ultimately got -- one of the police
11 killed another police, where they had to shut it all down.

12 I want to talk about the Chicago police, who, in
13 this city, were being used by the politicians to shut down
14 the community when the community only wanted to raise up
15 about something in their community that use Chicago -- I want
16 to talk about the Chicago police, about the gang
17 intelligence.

18 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Just one more minute,
19 Mr. McKinley.

20 MR. MCKINLEY: I want to talk about the gang
21 intelligence, who were taking activists' names. Some of the
22 people you see out here (indicating), their names have been
23 logged in to gang intelligence for merely telling on the
24 police and the criminal stuff they was talking about doing.

25 The Chicago police, you cannot allow them to come

1 from underneath this dissent decree. If they come from under
2 this today are the reason why you had this in Chicago, your
3 Honor.

4 Now, I want to make this clear to the judge.
5 Chicago was seen all over the world about the Laquan
6 McDonald -- it's no accident -- about Laquan McDonald. It
7 was seen all over the world.

8 And this is the only city -- and I close with
9 this -- where a commander, Glenn Evans, was in a police
10 station and put his gun in a man's mouth with DNA evidence on
11 it and walked out the courtroom and was innocent.

12 So we are asking that, your Honor, if nothing else,
13 keep the dissent decree -- it is a dissent between the public
14 and these police -- and make them honor what this courtroom
15 is about.

16 Thank you very much, your Honor.

17 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, Mr. McKinley.

18 Larry Dean.

19 Go ahead, sir.

20 MR. DEAN: Hello, your Honor. My name is Larry
21 Dean. I'm a black community organizer. I work at Community
22 Renewal Society. We're part of a coalition of community
23 groups that help enforce the consent decree.

24 When it comes to the consent decree against the
25 CPD, the City is completely failing.

1 The City agreed to the consent decree almost four
2 years ago, yet we have not seen any real change in policing
3 on the ground. The consent decree has not made a major
4 difference in people's lives.

5 The core problem is that the City and the CPD have
6 been resisting the changes mandated by the consent decree
7 over and over again. Change starts at the top. And the
8 mayor and superintendent need to get behind the complete
9 transformation of the culture of CPD.

10 The mayor and superintendent have tried to block
11 nearly every attempt to overhaul the CPD since the consent
12 decree was entered in 2019.

13 For example, despite a unanimous chorus of
14 community voices arguing for years that CPD's practices when
15 raiding family homes were unlawful and discriminatory, the
16 City disputed that search warrants were even covered under
17 the consent decree.

18 After losing that fight, the mayor and CPD now
19 oppose the Anjanette Young Ordinance with similar policy
20 changes that would end CPD's practices of violent, traumatic,
21 and racially discriminatory home raids.

22 Another example is CPD's new foot pursuit policy.
23 CPD refused to adopt nearly all of the policy recommendations
24 the coalition made, which were grounded in best practices
25 from other police departments and the lived experience of

1 community members.

2 The final foot pursuit policy CPD released is so
3 weak and watered down that it will now allow officers to
4 continue the kind of dangerous and unnecessary foot chases
5 that lead to the CPD killings of Adam Toledo and Anthony
6 Alvarez last year.

7 The City is also failing the consent decree because
8 the City and CPD refuse to meet with coalitions and
9 communities impacted by police violence to negotiate
10 necessary policy and training changes.

11 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: One more minute.

12 MR. DEAN: Community engagement is the foundation
13 of the consent decree. And real community engagement means
14 giving the communities most affected by harmful and
15 discriminatory policing the power to shape CPD policies.

16 The City only offers useless one-way listening
17 sessions, delivered dialogues, or focus groups. These are a
18 waste of time, because CPD doesn't respond to our suggestions
19 or explain why it will or won't accept our suggestions. At
20 most, CPD offers fake sympathy head nods.

21 CPD must negotiate in good faith with community
22 members, who are invested in changes, have direct experiences
23 with police, and have expertise in best practices. This
24 means CPD must explain to us why it agrees or disagrees with
25 the community recommendation. And together we should come up

1 with new policies that Chicagoans can accept.

2 Anything short of this type of true community
3 engagement violates the consent decree.

4 Thank you.

5 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, sir.

6 Elena Gormley.

7 MS. GORMLEY: Good afternoon.

8 My name is Elena Gormley, and I am a social worker.
9 I live in Chicago.

10 My main areas of practice are in workforce
11 development, mental health crisis response policy, and child
12 welfare policy.

13 In my work, I receive frequent inquiries from my
14 colleagues and from people directly impacted about what
15 resources are available for people and families in crisis
16 that do not involve law enforcement. Like, literally this
17 happens several times every day.

18 I also regularly receive inquiries from people
19 impacted by violence who need support.

20 People want transparent and accountable public
21 structures of care. Unfortunately, in my assessment and my
22 experience, the Chicago Police Department is not a
23 transparent and accountable public structure of care.

24 CPD is a very corrupt and poorly run jobs program
25 that hires sworn officers that do not possess the emotional

1 self-regulation or basic professionalism that we would expect
2 and demand from a workforce that literally holds people's
3 lives in their hands.

4 For comparison, if I were to do any of the things
5 that the police do on a regular basis that you have all
6 heard, I would be facing down a litany of ethical misconduct
7 and professional incompetence charges from my profession.

8 I have had to help friends and colleagues
9 safety-plan -- this is a term from domestic violence work --
10 in the aftermath of being cyberstalked and harassed by CPD
11 officers posting people's public information on their social
12 media.

13 I have witnessed CPD officers use foul and
14 disparaging remarks on their social media about people in
15 mental health crisis that, again, if I were to do that, that
16 would be considered ethical misconduct.

17 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: One more minute.

18 MS. GORMLEY: And I have witnessed CPD officers
19 compare COVID-19 vaccination to the Holocaust on social
20 media, and this is why I do not ever want to see a police
21 officer ever supposedly guard my synagogue.

22 The City's main public mental health crisis
23 response program is a police co-responder model. This means
24 that social workers are expected to partner with CPD
25 officers.

1 I would not feel safe doing any kind of crisis- or
2 resource-linkage work side by side with a CPD officer, not
3 only for concern out of the safety of people in crisis but
4 for my own physical safety. And this is due to CPD's history
5 of a severe and persistent disregard of ethical behavior.
6 Our communities deserve better.

7 Thank you.

8 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you.

9 Marvin Hunter.

10 MR. HUNTER: Thank you, your Honor, to everyone
11 that's here.

12 I am Marvin Hunter, the great-uncle of Laquan
13 McDonald, and feel like I'm primarily the reason we are in
14 this room having this conversation.

15 The thing that I would like to say, above all that
16 I could say, is that this consent decree must stay in place.
17 It must stay in place because it has not had an opportunity
18 to do what it was designed to do, and that is to bring about
19 sensible policing.

20 We need policing in this country. It's what helps
21 to make us a civilized society. But the truth of the matter
22 is, it needs to be policing and not a safeguard to maintain
23 people in poverty, not to maintain a slave system that does
24 not work for a country, like America, which is supposed to be
25 one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice

1 for all.

2 I was asked in an interview right after the
3 sentencing of the police officer, what did I think that the
4 judge should do? And how did I feel about what he would do?

5 My response immediately was that the American
6 criminal justice system was on trial, not Jason Van Dyke.
7 And I should hope that that judge would have that in mind
8 when he make his decision.

9 And I want to say to you-all today, the
10 Fourteenth Amendment rights of African-Americans, a protected
11 class, are being violated on a daily basis by the Chicago
12 Police Department and other police departments across this
13 country. And this consent decree is put in place so that you
14 could step in to supersede the state's rights, so that we
15 could, as citizens, be treated equal in this country.

16 I want to say that we must realize that this is not
17 the mayor's problem. This is not the City Council's problem.
18 This is a policy problem that happens in Springfield, and it
19 starts with the Uniform Disciplinary Peace Officers' Act.
20 That act needs to be overhauled.

21 We need to, as a federal court, plead with you to
22 create something within this consent decree that will cause
23 Springfield to quit having plausible deniability and allowing
24 us to filibuster about things that local politicians cannot
25 change. Once the law is set in Springfield, then it is

1 adhered to in Chicago.

2 We are a civilized society, we are a democratic
3 society, and we have to adhere to the laws. Let's go where
4 the problem is: Springfield.

5 Uniform Disciplinary Peace Officers' Act. We need
6 to do a forensic audit, and we need to change that act.

7 Thank you.

8 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, Mr. Hunter.

9 Anthony Johnson.

10 (No response.)

11 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Is Shareese Pryor with us?

12 MS. PRYOR: Yes.

13 Good afternoon, Judge Pallmeyer and Judge Dow.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

15 My name is Shareese Pryor. I come before you from
16 a unique position, having previously worked on the consent
17 decree and now as an advocate invested in its successful
18 implementation.

19 I am the director of a criminal legal system and
20 police accountability program at a law and policy center in
21 Chicago called BPI.

22 Our policing work focuses on enacting systemic
23 changes to promote community safety, strengthening
24 accountability and transparency, and reimagine the role
25 police should play in our society.

1 Before BPI, I worked in the Illinois Attorney
2 General's office and was a member of the team that negotiated
3 the consent decree and helped oversee its enforcement.

4 There are a few things I know for certain about the
5 consent decree: this work demands urgency, it must
6 meaningfully involve community, and requires transparency for
7 legitimacy.

8 Almost four years into implementation, serious
9 questions remain as to the City and CPD's commitment to these
10 priorities. I will offer an example.

11 After CPD released a draft foot pursuit policy for
12 public comment in May 2021, BPI began working with a
13 coalition of lawyers and Latinx nonprofits to advocate for
14 improvements to that policy. This group's work was
15 galvanized by Adam Toledo and Anthony Alvarez, both of whom
16 were fatally shot by CPD officers following foot pursuits in
17 the spring of 2021.

18 Our coalition provided draft comments in July and
19 requested meetings with CPD, the IMT, and the OAG.
20 Fortunately, they obliged and allowed us to share our
21 concerns. Following those meetings, we heard nothing.

22 CPD missed its September 3rd deadline to adopt the
23 policy. For nearly seven months, there was no update. CPD's
24 website reflected no status changes. There were no public
25 court hearings concerning the department's failure to comply

1 with its deadline.

2 In February 2022, CPD issued a revised draft, and
3 again, our coalition provided comments and requested and
4 received separate meetings with the parties and the
5 independent monitor.

6 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: One more minute.

7 MS. PRYOR: In June of 2022, over a year after the
8 first draft was released and five years after DOJ's
9 recommendation, CPD finalized its foot pursuit policy.

10 While the final policy made considerable
11 improvements that incorporated some of our feedback, it is
12 unclear whether we would have had the level of engagement
13 influence we did without our persistence.

14 I understand the need for a thoughtful, considered
15 approach, but the snail's pace at which CPD is developing
16 policies, particularly ones that require community input, is
17 inexcusable.

18 The problems this experience highlights extends
19 well beyond policy compliance. There are a range of issues
20 critical to successful implementation that suffer from a lack
21 of urgency and transparency, ranging from data collection to
22 staffing, allocation, and deployment decisions.

23 For those of us on the outside looking in, there is
24 a lack of visibility about the progress being made, or the
25 lack thereof, on the consent decree.

1 This is causing people -- even supporters -- to
2 lose confidence in the consent decree's ability to achieve
3 effective and constitutional policing.

4 As you preside over this case, please keep at the
5 top of mind the need for urgency and greater transparency
6 regarding CPD's compliance with this agreement. And please
7 exercise your authority to require meaningful community
8 involvement in developing policies and training. The stakes
9 are far too high to demand anything less.

10 Thank you.

11 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you very much,
12 Ms. Pryor.

13 Kenneth Cook.

14 (No response.)

15 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Xanat Sobrevilla.

16 (No response.)

17 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Arewa Karen Winters.

18 MS. WINTERS: Thank you, your Honor.

19 I'm Arewa Karen Winters. I'm a member of the
20 Campbell plaintiffs' group that filed a lawsuit against the
21 City for the consent decree. I'm also the founder of the
22 411 Movement for Pierre Loury.

23 My great-nephew was shot and killed by the Chicago
24 Police Department in 2016.

25 I did want to take time to talk about the Use of

1 Force working group, where I served as the cochair along with
2 the former chief, Ernest Cato III.

3 But La'rie Suttle as well as Vatsala have so
4 eloquently kind of laid out a lot of things that happened.
5 So I just want to share some personal things that I
6 experienced in the Working Group.

7 So initially we had six weeks to work on nine
8 policy suites, and that was just not enough time. And, to
9 me, that was the City and CPD's way of instantly setting us
10 up for a fail.

11 The Use of Force Working Group was a collective of
12 community residents. It was a very diverse group. It ranged
13 from, like, 21 years old up to 70 years old. Every
14 demographic in the city possibly was in that Working Group.
15 People gave of themselves, hours and hours of time of reading
16 documents and lending to the recommendations that we made.

17 Every instance that CPD and the City could
18 undermine all of our collective efforts, they took it upon
19 themselves to do just that. So there is no genuine or no
20 authentic engagement with CPD nor the City.

21 And I have to also say something about our mayor.
22 When we orchestrated the group, we were lacking Latinx
23 membership, so we cast our net. And while we were doing
24 this, the mayor took it upon herself to impart four
25 African-American religious leaders in our group. We already

1 had religious -- we had about five religious leaders in our
2 group. That wasn't what we needed.

3 So there was also another undermining of community
4 engagement. So it set a bad tone for the work that we were
5 really trying to do and accomplish.

6 We gave it our best. It was a new experience for
7 us. They kept saying it was new for them, but it was new for
8 us, also. And we gave it our best effort. And whenever they
9 could get to the media and, you know, kind of tear us apart,
10 they took it upon themselves to do that.

11 So when we're constantly talking about building
12 these relationships with them, we will not be able to do that
13 because they lack transparency. They are very disingenuous.
14 And it just really made it hard for us.

15 It was hard for us to recruit members to want to,
16 first of all, engage with CPD and engage with the City,
17 because all the sentiments were the same. Nothing is going
18 to change. Nothing is going to change. Nothing is going to
19 change. And this somewhat made that evident for us, but we
20 still put our best face forward.

21 And one more thing I want to say is that there was
22 opportunity for us, and there is still opportunity. And they
23 don't like the Working Group, but the Working Group is really
24 the only way that there is going to be genuine engagement
25 under the consent decree. They try to come up with

1 deliberative meetings, but what they do is, they want to rely
2 on an uneducated community to engage with them so, as we say,
3 they can check boxes.

4 They don't want to engage with impacted people.
5 They don't want to engage with people that are aware of what
6 should be happening or how things should be shaped and come
7 along.

8 And just to humanize our relationship, while we
9 were in the Working Group, we lost Officer Ella French. And
10 at our very next meeting, we made it our business as
11 community members to acknowledge -- to acknowledge their
12 loss, acknowledge their hurt. And the reason why we did that
13 was because we wanted to set a precedent. We wanted to say
14 that, regardless of how we feel about the institution of
15 policing, we are all human beings.

16 And this is something that the Chicago Police
17 Department fails to do for us as everyday citizens. They
18 don't care about my nephew. They don't care about how we
19 hurt. All they care about is how they hurt. And when they
20 hurt, they want everyone else to hurt along with them. Well,
21 I loved my nephew. Just as sure as I am anyone else loved
22 Ella French, I loved my nephew.

23 And all we are saying is, as human beings, we want
24 an acknowledgement. And until the Chicago Police Department
25 can acknowledge the harm that has been done and until the

1 Chicago Police Department can begin to acknowledge the pain
2 that they are causing in communities, I just don't know where
3 we are going with any of this work that we are doing.

4 And I don't know how that happens. I don't know
5 how that comes about. I don't know what needs to happen.
6 We're doing all this work, but it just -- it feels so
7 microscopic. You know, it's like we're putting in our best
8 effort.

9 I'm not an abolitionist. Even though I lost
10 someone I love, I'm not an abolitionist. I believe that
11 there should be a system of law and order, but I just don't
12 know that it's happening right now.

13 I don't know why they are still failing at the
14 consent decree, but yet they are continually perpetrating
15 like they are doing so well at the consent decree. And they
16 are not.

17 So that's all I really have to say. And thank you.

18 Oh, lastly, there was some progress made, but
19 ultimately, CPD still has a long way to go. They have
20 critical shortcomings that need immediate changes, and we
21 highlighted a lot of those deficiencies in a public report
22 that the community representatives of the Community Working
23 Group released earlier in the fall. And we would be glad to
24 provide a copy of that report to the courts.

25 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, Ms. Winters.

1 MS. WINTERS: Thank you.

2 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Akash Shah.

3 MR. SHAH: Thank you, your Honors.

4 My name is Akash Shah with ONE Northside.

5 I'm here because the Chicago police need a
6 transformation of their culture. People need to be able to
7 trust the police, and trust cannot be rebuilt until the
8 police stop seeing community members as enemies.

9 For a very long time now, knowing that we are
10 feared, hated, and stereotyped by the police, make brown
11 people feel like we're not protected.

12 Based on my past experiences with Chicago police, I
13 feel like my life is in jeopardy by the very people who swear
14 an oath to protect and serve everyone in our city.

15 Does this oath have any meaning?

16 Only when officers are really held accountable to
17 the idea that public safety means protecting everyone,
18 including brown and black people, will the mission be
19 achieved.

20 I'm proud to be an Indian-American immigrant. My
21 parents came to Chicago when I was only five years old. I
22 work as a victim advocate for ONE Northside. AND the reason
23 I do it is because I want to help people like myself.

24 I was the victim of a fatal drive-by shooting in
25 Chicago around 2010. The Chicago police just closed the case

1 and didn't investigate. They just didn't provide me with any
2 services or resources. My family was struck. I was a
3 full-time college student with a double major in accounting
4 and applied mathematics, set to graduate that year.

5 I had a 4.0 GPA and a 1.8 million-dollar job letter
6 awarded to me that year. So just, you know, with emotional,
7 physical scars from that drive-by shooting not only left me
8 unable to study and work and complete my studies, but also
9 the rug just pulled under my feet. I was left with medical
10 debt that destroyed my credit. I just felt like I was now a
11 burden to my family.

12 I didn't want others to feel equally helpless and
13 abandoned without the help from the police like myself, so I
14 took this job on as a victim advocate to be here and to speak
15 on behalf of the community.

16 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: One more minute.

17 MR. SHAH: People in our community, they feel both
18 underprotected and overpoliced. The police didn't protect
19 and serve me.

20 I also felt the firsthand experience with some
21 serious violence that police inflict on brown people like me.

22 The negative experiences with police harassment
23 started when I was still in grade school, continued to high
24 school, and through my college experiences.

25 Corruption is so entrenched that if we don't fix it

1 now, how can we work on fixing our communities?

2 It's been so traumatic to see that people who are
3 supposed to keep me safe are people I don't feel safe around.
4 And there's no accountability. Officers don't get punished.
5 The stereotypes, the racist assumptions about gang
6 memberships -- I have to be feeling forced to change my
7 friendships, my hobbies, or, like, looking a different way so
8 that police don't harass me. I have to cut my hair, keep a
9 clean shave to look less threatening so that I don't
10 constantly get stopped.

11 This is something that is internally going on at
12 the academy, where they are trained to work off stereotyped
13 assumptions. This needs to change, like a complete
14 transformation from the top to bottom, inside out.

15 I just want to finish with a statistic we found
16 recently that confirms that police use racist stereotypes to
17 decide who to stop on the street.

18 Since 2016, about two-thirds of all investigatory
19 stops were of black residents, while the city is only about
20 one-third black.

21 Another 20 percent of the investigatory stops are
22 brown, Hispanic and Asian people.

23 White people are significantly less likely to be
24 stopped, yet they only make only up about 6 percent of the
25 stops but over 30 percent of the city's population. Why is

1 that?

2 Thank you for your time.

3 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, Mr. Shah.

4 Flora Suttle.

5 (No response.)

6 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: I know we heard from La'rie
7 Suttle before. I don't know whether that's a relation.

8 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: She is not here.

9 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Okay.

10 Daniel Wolk.

11 (No response.)

12 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Remel Terry.

13 MS. TERRY: Good afternoon, your Honor. Thank you
14 all.

15 My name is Remel Terry. I am a lifelong Chicagoan
16 and a very proud West Sider.

17 I serve as the second vice president and political
18 action chair for the Chicago West Side NAACP.

19 You previously heard from my colleague Ms. Cook. I
20 worked with her closely on the Campbell plaintiff consent
21 decree and a lot of the initiatives with working with our
22 criminal justice community to discuss many of the issues that
23 we have already heard throughout today.

24 So I do want to say, though I have been a part of
25 the West Side NAACP, served as a COPA advisory counsel

1 member, I'm also a concerned parent, as well as a concerned
2 citizen who has also been impacted significantly by being
3 pulled over several times simply because of where I reside in
4 the North Lawndale community. If anyone is familiar with the
5 North Lawndale community, you know that there is a
6 significant number of harassments that occur in that
7 neighborhood.

8 If you look at the research of the past paid-out
9 lawsuits, even though the poverty level is significantly not
10 high in North Lawndale, you are much better off if you just
11 sue the police for the harassment that happens in order to
12 get paid, because that's how common it is in that community.

13 I am grateful that my son this year, who is 18
14 years of age, was able to make it out of high school, and he
15 is now in college. But that is a particular feat for a black
16 mother in the city of Chicago that many others do not have to
17 concern themselves with.

18 We talk a lot about all of these issues and the
19 impacts, but when we look at things like the gang database,
20 75 percent of those individuals that were represented on that
21 database were black.

22 If you look at the police shootings, of those who
23 are impacted by police shootings, over 50 percent of those
24 individuals are black.

25 It is unacceptable that this situation continues.

1 We should not be, as black people, reliving the history that
2 our ancestors went through. And our children, to this day,
3 are still learning that same history.

4 It is unacceptable that the highest court has
5 implemented this consent decree, yet it has yielded no
6 results. Yet we can see, as we hear about the sweeps that
7 have happened in our community, those individuals are charged
8 and given life. Sometimes it seems that that justice seems
9 to be swift. But when we are looking at these individuals
10 within the police department, not the entire police
11 department, there seems to be no opportunity to hold them
12 accountable.

13 And I agree about the Uniform Disciplinary
14 Officers' Act, that is something that we have been working
15 on. It does need to be addressed because it is
16 unacceptable -- if a teacher has to carry themselves a
17 certain way, it is unacceptable that uniformed officers being
18 paid off of taxpayer dollars are allowed to walk and do and
19 be unapologetically, with no accountability, committing all
20 kinds of heinous acts against individuals who are
21 undeserving.

22 So I'm asking this Court today to wield whatever
23 power that you-all have to ensure that the measures that have
24 been outlined in this consent decree are done with urgency.

25 It is unacceptable for us to be five years down the

1 line and all we can hear about is how they have success with
2 training.

3 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you. Thank you,
4 Ms. Terry.

5 Mr. Wilkins, I know you are still here. You were
6 here this morning. You are welcome to step up, sir.

7 I think -- if you want to pull down the microphone,
8 you are welcome to do that.

9 MR. WILKINS: Thank you. Long day. Thank you,
10 Judge.

11 My name is Eric Wilkins. I'm an organizer with
12 Communities United. I'm also one of the CU plaintiffs, and I
13 also worked on the Use of Force Working Group. And I'm also
14 from Roseland.

15 My brother was wrongfully incarcerated in 1992,
16 during the Jon Burge era. That's what brings me to this
17 work. He was falsely accused, and he did 25 years, which led
18 to me getting shot and paralyzed seven years later.

19 While in this chair, I've been taken out of my
20 chair, pulled over by the police, sat on the curve, you know.
21 And I've been -- I've been in illegal raids where people come
22 in -- where the police come in, and they just tear your house
23 up and leave.

24 I done had friends to be shot by the police and
25 paralyzed. I had friends to be killed by the police.

1 Since the consent decree been in effect in 2019,
2 I've seen little change.

3 Just this summer, I was pulled over while an
4 officer was giving me a false sobriety test because of the
5 way I walked. The statement told the officers that you
6 couldn't search my car. Officers searched my car, you know.
7 And he could have planted something for me to get caught
8 later, you know.

9 And after specifically telling him that and not
10 giving him permission, I voluntarily got information for the
11 Independent Monitoring Team and the ACLU to show that in
12 Roseland and in Englewood, there is no difference.

13 I could ride around today and get you some footage,
14 you know. Any time -- any time that the police is behind me,
15 I cringe. I believe there should be a -- I believe there
16 should be law, if the police are behind you for a short
17 period of time, you should be able to pull over and let the
18 police go past.

19 In closing, I have two sons, six and ten now. And
20 my ten-year-old, he will be 14 in four years, you know. And
21 14 is a scary age for a young black male in Chicago.

22 We spend 1,745 per household on criminalization and
23 only 245 per household on communities of care. You know, I
24 really want to see change. I don't want my boys to go
25 through what I went through. I don't want them to have to

1 put they hands on the cars, having to be sat on the curb,
2 having to be -- they're coming out of that cute age. When
3 you're small, you're cute. Once you start getting bigger,
4 you become -- you become suspect, a victim, you know.

5 Thank you.

6 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, sir. Thank you,
7 Mr. Wilkins.

8 There were a number of names I called where people
9 weren't here, and I want to review those just in case
10 somebody has come in since this morning -- even this morning
11 or this afternoon.

12 So I am going to begin with the names of
13 individuals who were here this morning -- or didn't get
14 called this morning.

15 There was Ledarrel Goss El.

16 (No response.)

17 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Andre Crayton.

18 (No response.)

19 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: If any of you are here,
20 please do raise your hand and step up.

21 Dajae Allen.

22 (No response.)

23 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Miracle Boyd, are you with
24 us?

25 (No response.)

1 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: José Almanza.

2 (No response.)

3 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Raven Geary.

4 (No response.)

5 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Tramaine Jones.

6 (No response.)

7 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: All right. And then some
8 names from this afternoon.

9 Michael Harrington.

10 (No response.)

11 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Danette Bullard.

12 (No response.)

13 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Jaime Silva.

14 (No response.)

15 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Leticia Horton.

16 (No response.)

17 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Natalie Cohn Arenoff.

18 (No response.)

19 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: James Gibson.

20 (No response.)

21 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Jennifer Edwards.

22 (No response.)

23 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: John Catanzara.

24 (No response.)

25 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Jasmine Vale.

1 (No response.)

2 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Nancy Rodriguez.

3 (No response.)

4 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Anthony Tassone.

5 (No response.)

6 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Daryle Brown.

7 (No response.)

8 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Anthony Johnson.

9 (No response.)

10 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Kenneth Cook.

11 (No response.)

12 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Xanat Sobrevilla.

13 (No response.)

14 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Flora Suttle.

15 (No response.)

16 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Daniel Wolk.

17 (No response.)

18 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: All right. I know that you
19 all understand this, but you're welcome to submit written
20 statements as well.

21 Judge Dow, did you want to make any closing
22 remarks?

23 JUDGE DOW: I just wanted to say thanks again for
24 the privilege of working with all of you. I wish you great
25 success in this long endeavor.

1 I hear what people are saying, that it's taking too
2 long to be felt in the communities. When I look back, I will
3 always wonder what more I could have done.

4 But I'm confident that we will keep moving forward.
5 And when I said, "Let us begin," I meant for this to end, and
6 it will.

7 I thank Judge Pallmeyer for allowing me to be part
8 of today. It's a little bit of closure for me personally,
9 but I know there is a long way to go. And I am sure you will
10 get there. And I will be rooting for you.

11 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you.

12 I want to say a personal thanks to Judge Dow for
13 the great work he has done over the years and the
14 relationships that he has built and created and his own sense
15 of the need for strong efforts here.

16 Let me just say that one of the messages that came
17 through from so many of you witnesses today is a sense of
18 urgency and a concern that, although years have gone by, you
19 feel that there hasn't been enough or significant change. I
20 did hear that. I take that very seriously.

21 I do intend to do what I can to make sure that a
22 year from now you are seeing some differences and some
23 changes. It's not going to be easy. I know that.

24 Another comment I want to make is that a few
25 minutes ago we heard from one of our witnesses about the fact

1 that when Officer French died, she reached out because she
2 realized that this is a painful moment for the police. And
3 the reality is that the situation in our city, the city that
4 we all love, is very troubled.

5 And one of the things that's most troubling in our
6 city is the poor relationship between the people and the
7 police.

8 And not suggesting that that's the reason Ellen
9 French died, but I do think it's important for us to remember
10 that there are many, many victims here. There are all of you
11 who have been hurt by episodes with the police or have family
12 members who have. There are the police themselves who, many
13 of them, in good faith, are attempting to investigate crime
14 and can't get the cooperation of the public because there is
15 no trust.

16 And then there are -- let's face it -- most
17 important of all, all kinds of crime victims in Chicago. All
18 kinds of people who have been hurt, maimed, shot at, are
19 frightened, are scared all because of criminal activity in
20 the city that is not -- that has not been effectively policed
21 and for which we all are paying a dear, dear price.

22 I know that you are all concerned about this. I
23 share that concern. I will take this responsibility that I
24 now have thrust on me as seriously as I can.

25 I would like to see some improvements happen. I

1 would like to know that a couple of years from now, a year
2 from now you are thinking that things have gotten better.
3 They won't be perfect. No human system is perfect. They
4 won't be perfect. They won't be transformative, but I
5 certainly would hope that there will be progress and change.
6 And we are going to work toward that, all of us together, all
7 of you and all of us here, this team.

8 Best wishes to all of you. I know that the
9 holidays are coming. I hope that they are safe, happy, and
10 healthy ones for you.

11 Anything further from the monitor?

12 MS. HICKEY: No, your Honor.

13 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: All right. Thank you.

14 I think we are adjourned.

15 THE CLERK: All rise.

16 (An adjournment was taken at 3:16 p.m.)

17 * * * * *

18 I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the
19 record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

20 /s/ Frances Ward December 14, 2022.
21 Official Court Reporter
22 F/j
23
24
25