

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.)	June 11, 2024 10:15 a.m.

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS - Public Hearing
BEFORE THE HONORABLE CHIEF JUDGE REBECCA R. PALLMEYER

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1 APPEARANCES (Continued:)

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3 Also Present: Chief (ret.) Kerr Putney, Associate Monitor
4 Superintendent Larry Snelling

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1 (The following proceedings were had via
2 videoconference:)

3 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: All right. Good morning,
4 everybody.

5 We're here for a public hearing in the matter of
6 the State of Illinois versus the City of Chicago, the police
7 consent decree.

8 We had a little -- little technical issues getting
9 started, but I think everything is on track right now.

10 And what I'd like to ask is that we hear from the
11 Independent Monitoring Team through either the Monitor,
12 Maggie Hickey, or -- and/or Chief Putney. So if you want to
13 go ahead and make a few opening remarks.

14 MS. HICKEY: Thank you very much, your Honor, and
15 thank you for convening us here today for the opportunity to
16 hear from community members.

17 We've had over 60 community members sign up to
18 speak today, so we will keep our comments brief. We've asked
19 both the parties and the attorneys representing the coalition
20 to do the same.

21 As reflected in your order for this hearing, in
22 October of 2023, the Court, the Monitor, the City of Chicago
23 and the Office of the Attorney General heard from community
24 members and stakeholders regarding whether traffic stops
25 should be added to the consent decree.

1 Today, the City of Chicago, the Office of the
2 Attorney General are seeking additional community input on
3 what specific traffic-stop related requirements should be
4 added to the consent decree, if any.

5 With that, I would like to briefly introduce
6 Retired Chief Kerr Putney, who is the Associate Monitor for
7 the consent decree for the Independent Monitoring Team. And
8 his subject area of expertise of the consent decree relates
9 to investigative stops, protective pat-downs, and loitering
10 enforcement ordinances.

11 I turn it over to you now, Kerr.

12 MR. PUTNEY: Good morning, everyone.

13 My name is Kerr Putney. I'm the retired Chief of
14 Police from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department down
15 in Charlotte, North Carolina, serving as the Associate
16 Monitor now for the consent decree section on investigatory
17 stops, pat-downs, and enforcement of the loitering ordinance.

18 Here today to make sure we hear from you about the
19 how, because back in October, we heard about the why traffic
20 stops should be a part of the consent decree.

21 A year ago, the parties agreed to expand the
22 consent decree to include obligations by the CPD to monitor,
23 report, review, train, and implement accountability measures
24 with respect to the investigatory stops, protective pat-downs
25 and loitering ordinance. The goal of these measures is to

1 ensure that CPD complies with the mandate for the
2 constitution, state law, and also policing best practices.

3 As you might be aware, traffic stops -- some of the
4 traffic stops are already included in the investigatory stop
5 section of the consent decree. Those really lean on those
6 that are based on reasonable, articulable suspicion; meaning
7 if an officer sees someone who he or she suspects is leaving
8 the scene of an accident, they have reason to suspect that
9 that person may be involved in something that's unlawful.
10 Therefore, that stop would be included under the consent
11 decree. Traffic stops, such as violations of the speeding
12 limit -- speed limit would not be because it's based on
13 probable cause.

14 It's kind of confusing. It creates issues with
15 really being able to monitor directly what the intent of the
16 consent decree was. And that's why, as a member of the
17 Associate Monitor Team and the entire Independent Monitoring
18 Team, we believe all stops should fall into the consent
19 decree. Today, it's a matter of hearing from you
20 specifically how that should work.

21 With that, we look forward to hearing from all
22 community members. This is fundamental to what we want to do
23 as a Monitoring Team to ensure that your expectations, your
24 perspectives, your expertise, and your life experiences
25 reflect in what we do to hold CPD accountable relative to all

1 sections of the consent decree, especially this one that
2 we're talking about today.

3 Thank you, folks, so much for the opportunity to
4 hear from me.

5 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, Officer Putney.

6 I think we're prepared now to hear from the Office
7 of the Attorney General.

8 MS. GRIEB: Good morning, your Honor.

9 My name is Mary Grieb, and I represent the State of
10 Illinois. I'm joined by several members of our team of
11 attorneys from the Attorney General's office.

12 Thank you to the Court and the Monitoring Team for
13 coordinating this hearing to discuss the Chicago Police
14 Department's use of traffic stops.

15 The Monitor has recommended that CPD's traffic stop
16 practices be subject to independent oversight. The Monitor's
17 recommendation is a recognition of what many Chicago
18 residents know from their own experiences. CPD's policies
19 and practices regarding traffic stops need reform. The
20 consent decree is a path to providing this necessary reform.

21 Our purpose today is to hear from Chicago residents
22 about their experiences with CPD during traffic stops and
23 beyond.

24 We understand that many people have signed up to
25 speak today, and we appreciate that most of you are taking

1 time away from work, school, or your family to speak in court
2 today. We thank you for sharing your experiences and
3 recommendations with the Court and with our team.

4 As we at the Attorney General's Office begin our
5 discussions with CPD about changing the Department's approach
6 to traffic stops, the feedback we hear from Chicagoans must
7 be the foundation of those discussions.

8 No one gives up their constitutional rights just by
9 getting in a vehicle. CPD officers have a basic obligation
10 to respect the constitutional rights of every person they
11 encounter, including during a traffic stop.

12 But beyond meeting this basic obligation, in order
13 to see real change, CPD must agree to eliminate traffic stop
14 practices that damage community trust and hurt public safety
15 by driving a wedge between the police and the communities
16 they serve.

17 Last year, CPD conducted well over 500,000 traffic
18 stops. So far this year, that number appears to be much
19 lower. But whether the number of stops goes up or goes down,
20 the fact remains that Chicago police officers stop hundreds
21 of people every day. It is one of the most common and
22 impactful interactions people have with police.

23 And as important as it may be to have a reduction
24 in the total number of unnecessary traffic stops, there also
25 must be an assessment of the quality and outcome of CPD's

1 traffic stops. Reduction on its own is not sufficient, and
2 that's because, for each person stopped, the experience may
3 range from merely inconvenience to traumatizing to
4 life-changing.

5 CPD's own data indicates that the vast majority of
6 traffic stops are black and brown drivers.

7 Last fall we heard from Chicagoans and community
8 organizations about whether the consent decree was the
9 appropriate step -- the appropriate way to address traffic
10 stops. We heard many people share their experiences being
11 stopped by Chicago police officers, some who had been stopped
12 just weeks before the hearing and some years before, and
13 those experiences left a lasting mark on the person stopped.

14 Since last fall, our office has continued to
15 evaluate data about CPD traffic stops and meet with
16 stakeholders about CPD's traffic stop practices.

17 In April, many in our city, including our team,
18 watched the video of Chicago police officers conducting the
19 traffic stop that led to the fatal shooting of Dexter Reed
20 and the wounding of a Chicago police officer. That tragic
21 event underscored the urgent need to reform CPD's approach to
22 traffic stops for the safety and well-being of everyone in
23 Chicago.

24 We appreciate the subsequent acknowledgment by
25 Superintendent Snelling that he supports independent

1 oversight of CPD's traffic stop practices through the consent
2 decree.

3 We also understand and acknowledge that the consent
4 decree is not the only avenue for bringing necessary reforms
5 to CPD. It never has been, and it never will be.

6 We appreciate that many people push every day
7 through every available avenue to make CPD more accountable
8 to the public.

9 We know that the consent decree process can
10 sometimes feel slow, especially when it seems like there
11 isn't a moment to waste. But the need to reform CPD's
12 traffic stop practices has been clear for years, since well
13 before Dexter Reed died this March.

14 At this point, the consent decree provides the most
15 direct, concrete and certain path to making these necessary
16 reforms a reality. The time to start down this path is now.
17 And our first step today is to hear from people who live and
18 work in the city, because they're the ones the most impacted
19 by how CPD conducts stops.

20 But today won't be the only chance for Chicagoans
21 to be heard on this critical public safety issue. Our office
22 looks forward to further engagement with Chicago residents
23 who are committed to bringing their ideas and experiences to
24 this effort.

25 As we begin to discuss including specific

1 requirements in the consent decree with CPD, we will use what
2 we learn in today's hearing and in our subsequent
3 conversations with stakeholders, through our own research,
4 and with expertise from law enforcement subject matter
5 experts to drive our advocacy.

6 We again thank the Court and everyone who has taken
7 the time and effort to share their perspective today.

8 Thank you, your Honor.

9 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you.

10 I think we're ready, then, to hear from the
11 coalition. A few brief remarks from Ms. Garcia or Ms. Bedi.

12 MR. SEPÚLVEDA: Your Honor, I believe we have the
13 City next up on the agenda.

14 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Oh, you're right. I'm
15 sorry. You're right. I'm sorry. I slid right over the
16 City.

17 Is it Mr. Slagel that we'll be hearing from?

18 MR. SLAGEL: No, your Honor. It's going to be from
19 Superintendent Snelling.

20 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: All right. Thank you.

21 Superintendent Snelling, you have the floor.

22 SUPERINTENDENT SNELLING: Good morning, Judge, and
23 good morning to everybody on the call.

24 First, I'd like to acknowledge that oversight of
25 our traffic stops is necessary. We need to look at our

1 practice -- our past practice, and we need to assess those
2 and to continue to assess those.

3 Since I became superintendent, I made it clear that
4 my focus is more around violent crimes that's plaguing our
5 city and traumatizing the citizens here of our city.

6 To not acknowledge that traffic stops and the
7 number of traffic stops that need -- performed over the years
8 and recognizing the community concerns around as it relates
9 to black and brown communities and how they are affected by
10 these traffic stops, there's an acknowledgment here by
11 Chicago Police Department in doing so.

12 If we truly want to address crime, our traffic
13 stops have to be performed in a manner that is
14 constitutional, respectful. And all of our officers have to
15 be on the same page, trained the same way.

16 I know that this has been a long controversial
17 topic. The Chicago Police Department, myself, we hear the
18 concerns of our community. We know that these stops have to
19 be rooted in constitutionality.

20 And just to give you an idea of the focus of the
21 Chicago Police Department this year, we have reduced traffic
22 stops year-to-date for the last year by approximately 87,000.
23 So that is a major decrease.

24 And although I do acknowledge the OAG's comment
25 that reduction itself alone is not enough, and I remember

1 agree with that. This is why training is absolutely
2 necessary.

3 So when you have a greater focus on violent crime
4 as opposed to just traffic stops as a strategy for violent
5 crime, what we've seen with a reduction of 87,000 stops,
6 we've seen an increase of 500 felony arrests this year and,
7 overall, more than 3,000 arrests. So we've seen an increase
8 in both of those. These are more related to violent crimes
9 than just your basic traffic stop.

10 But even before this agreement to add it to the
11 consent decree, we started training our officers. I, myself,
12 personally looked at the way that traffic stops have been
13 conducted through body-worn camera. I've looked at the
14 Dexter Reed shooting and how that unfolded. And I
15 acknowledge that there is absolutely a need to reform the way
16 that we do traffic stops.

17 That's going to be done through annual training.
18 Fourth Amendment training is absolutely necessary for our
19 officers to constantly be reminded of how traffic stops are
20 to be performed.

21 The intention here of moving this to the consent
22 decree is not just to address the problem today. I mean, I'm
23 looking to transform some things while I'm here as the
24 superintendent.

25 So if we're going to reform traffic stops, we can't

1 just do it for the moment. This has to be long-term, and I
2 believe that adding this to the consent decree gives
3 long-term oversight over how CPD conducts traffic stops.

4 So with that, I would say that I am 100 percent
5 dedicated in making sure that we get to the bottom of this.
6 If we're going to rebuild community trust, if we're going to
7 rebuild our relationship with community, we have to
8 acknowledge some of the things that we have problems with,
9 and we have to take corrective action. And I believe that
10 adding these traffic stops to the consent decree is the way
11 to do that.

12 And that's all I have for now, Judge.

13 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you very much,
14 Superintendent.

15 I just want to observe that I think that it's clear
16 that your direct involvement in the consent decree process is
17 going to be critical to its success. And I very much
18 appreciate your being with us this morning for the hearing.

19 I believe now I am correct that we are going to be
20 hearing from the coalition.

21 MS. GARCIA: Thank you, your Honor. Good morning.

22 My name is Michelle Garcia. I'm speaking on behalf
23 of the Communities United Plaintiffs, who are part of the
24 coalition. I'm splitting my time with Sheila Bedi, who will
25 also be speaking for a moment.

1 We would like to thank the Court and the parties
2 for this hearing, which provides greater transparency and an
3 opportunity to listen to impacted community members.

4 Recently, after the coalition filed a motion to
5 enforce the consent decree about CPD's mass arrest policy,
6 the Court ordered CPD to meet and negotiate with the
7 coalition for better First Amendment protection in
8 anticipation of the Democratic National Convention, but it
9 shouldn't take a motion to enforce the consent decree or a
10 court order for CPD to engage with the coalition and other
11 impacted community members. Such engagement should happen
12 before and during the development of policy and training; not
13 afterward.

14 There are two areas where CPD must engage with the
15 coalition and impacted community members: how officers treat
16 youth and people with limited English proficiency.

17 CPD's harmful and discriminatory treatment of
18 Chicago's youth is one of the most serious problems in our
19 city. Black and Latino youth are stereotyped as aggressive,
20 criminals, or gang members, resulting in violent and racist
21 policing.

22 CPD finalized the policy on how officers should
23 interact with youth without meeting with the coalition or
24 through impacted community members and without incorporating
25 any of our 14 pages of recommendations, critical ones, such

1 as diverting kids away from arrest.

2 We urge the City to engage with the coalition,
3 impacted community members, and experts to fix this critical
4 policy, to better train officers, and to commit to diverting
5 young people away from arrest.

6 Next, I'd like to talk about how CPD interacts with
7 people with limited English proficiency.

8 People with limited English proficiency are a large
9 part of Chicago. Over 35 percent of people older than the
10 age of five in Chicago speak another language at home other
11 than English. Over half a million people speak Spanish at
12 home. The next most common language is Mandarin and Polish.

13 Federal and state civil rights law and the consent
14 decree requires CPD to provide meaningful access to programs
15 and services to individuals who have limited ability to
16 speak, read, write, or understand English. This means that
17 CPD must use qualified bilingual officers and interpreters
18 and translated documents.

19 But currently, CPD doesn't provide meaningful
20 access. The current policy is 12 years old. This policy
21 allows officers to ask children or friends to interpret for a
22 person in an interview for a criminal investigation.

23 It also, contrary to Paragraph 64 of the consent
24 decree, does not require officers to use a qualified
25 interpreter when providing someone *Miranda* warnings. That's

1 not meaningful access. That's national origin
2 discrimination.

3 Besides violating the law and the consent decree,
4 CPD's failure to provide meaningful access to people of
5 limited English proficiency erodes trust, generates fear, and
6 is dangerous.

7 You will hear from community members today how they
8 are harmed. It is CPD's responsibility, not the community,
9 to ensure that people with limited English proficiency have
10 meaningful access to police services.

11 We urge the City to engage the coalition, impacted
12 community members, and others to immediately fix how officers
13 interact with our youth and people with limited English
14 proficiency.

15 Thank you.

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

17 Ms. Bedi, or was it Mr. Futterman?

18 MR. FUTTERMAN: Good morning, your Honor.

19 It's Craig Futterman. I'm not Sheila Bedi, and I'm
20 going to do my best to substitute for her. She is caught up
21 before Judge Shah at the moment, but I'll do my best.

22 Your Honor, thank you for the opportunity to
23 address the Court and for creating this space to hear from
24 community members directly impacted by the invasive violent
25 and sometimes deadly police practice of traffic stops in

1 Chicago.

2 We understand that the parties intend to include
3 traffic stops in the decree. And the vast majority of
4 community members you'll hear from today who will speak will,
5 without a doubt, confirm the urgent need for action to end
6 the Police Department's systemic practice of targeting black
7 and brown people for pretext stops and far too frequently
8 engaging in escalatory violent behavior.

9 The Court is likely to hear various perspectives on
10 whether the consent decree is the correct mechanism for these
11 changes. And on behalf of Campbell, we offer a few points on
12 this issue.

13 First, in order for the consent decree to live up
14 to its transformative potential, it must be a living document
15 that responds to the harms that the Police Department imposes
16 on our communities.

17 But the consent decree shouldn't be expanded until
18 or unless there are appropriate mechanisms in place to ensure
19 that the revised terms adequately reflect the experiences and
20 expertise to those who are most impacted by CPD's harms.

21 As the Court is aware, CPD continues to earn
22 failing grades when it comes to community engagement. So any
23 consent decree expansion risks -- and here, particularly in
24 this context, risks blunting community oversight over the CPD
25 because, for one, The Community Commission for Public Safety

1 and Accountability -- and that's the citywide commission of
2 people vetted by community representatives -- has authority
3 to set CPD policy. But the commissions on policymaking
4 authority currently ends where the consent decree begins.

5 So efforts to expand the decree should be crafted
6 to preserve the commission's jurisdiction over traffic stops
7 and to shore up community engagement components of the
8 decree, and that's to everyone's benefit.

9 As Ms. Garcia just mentioned, I mean, our
10 experience with the coordinated mass arrest policy really
11 underscores this point, because while the Department shared
12 drafts of the policy with the Attorney General and Monitor
13 back in December, it refused to share it with the community
14 coalition as representatives of the community decree; and, as
15 a result, we wound up having to file an emergency enforcement
16 motion just -- and engage in expedited negotiations just mere
17 months before the DNC to prevent the proposed policy from
18 inflicting lasting harm.

19 Because the Court ordered engagement with the
20 coalition, we were able, thankfully, to prevent the most
21 harmful parts of the proposed policy from going into effect.
22 But CPD created an unnecessary emergency that taxed all our
23 resources because it refused to engage the coalition and
24 as -- and members of affected communities on the front end.
25 That pattern must end before the consent decree is expanded.

1 It's Campbell plaintiffs' strong view that the coalition must
2 be involved on the front end.

3 A few quick points on substance and I'll end.

4 If -- and if traffic stops are incorporated into
5 the decree, in addition to creating a carve-out for the
6 Community Commission, we believe that the decree must, at the
7 very least, do the following: It must expressly prohibit
8 pretext stops, consent searches, and traffic enforcement for
9 other than stops that are necessary for public safety.

10 It's critically important to address; and, in our
11 view, disband tactical teams. Aggressive negative encounters
12 conducted by officers who have often been trained to see
13 black and brown community members as potential threats
14 continue to be recipes for disaster. And it's no surprise
15 that these teams engage in massive numbers of pretext stops.
16 Since they do engage in mass numbers of pretext stops, they
17 are also responsible for a grossly disproportionate amount of
18 CPD violence.

19 Prohibit the practice of trolling, and that's the
20 practice of absolutely seeking out traffic or other
21 violations at the end of shifts so that officers can make one
22 and a half times their regularly hourly rate in overtime.

23 And lastly, impose -- and this is critically
24 important. This is an area in which the consent decree has
25 often fallen short by its failure to impose real

1 (unintelligible) that actually holds CPD accountable for
2 ending racial discrimination stops, actually ending the
3 disparities.

4 The reality is everyone here on this call and
5 people who speak know that black people continue to be
6 targeted for stops at a rate of more than three times of that
7 for whites, leading to unnecessary, severe uses of force.

8 As the OIG confirms, CPD officers use force against
9 black people during these stops far more frequently than
10 people of any other race. CPD has long been aware of this
11 reality and statistics to back it up, back up the reality.

12 But while we appreciate this year -- and that's the
13 beginning of 2024 -- seeing dramatic reduction in stops,
14 until -- up until now, though -- and this is just a first
15 step -- CPD has really refused to stop engaging in
16 discriminatory practices.

17 We deeply appreciate the Court's efforts to ensure
18 here today and throughout that the experiences of the people
19 of the community are represented.

20 Thank you for your time, and apologies for not
21 being Sheila.

22 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: No problem. Thank you very
23 much, Mr. Futterman.

24 Okay. That concludes the public comments being
25 made by the OAG, the City, and now the coalition.

1 So we're ready to turn to the community speakers.
2 And I have a list here of those individuals who are signed up
3 for hearing -- for the hearing this morning.

4 I think we had told you that you would have five
5 minutes. I'm afraid we're going to ask that you be as brief
6 as possible, because there are -- we have a large number of
7 people who have signed up, more than we had expected. And I
8 want to make sure that everyone does get a chance to be
9 heard.

10 I think the first speaker to be listed here is
11 Dorothy Holmes.

12 So, Ms. Holmes, if you're ready, we can get started
13 and hear from you.

14 MR. SEPÚLVEDA: Your Honor, I don't believe that
15 she is in attendance or at least not by a name that's
16 identifiable. If she could raise her hand virtually, we
17 might be able to select her. Otherwise, we may need to move
18 on to Speaker 2.

19 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: All right. Well, while we
20 are waiting for Ms. Holmes, why don't we turn to the second
21 speaker, and Romya Simone.

22 MS. SIMONE: Good morning, your Honor.

23 My name is --

24 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Good morning.

25 MS. SIMONE: Yeah. My name is Romya Simone, and I

1 am a 16-year-old black woman living in the Austin community.
2 And I am a youth fellow with Communities United, which is a
3 (unintelligible). And I want to share with you a story about
4 my brother, who experienced police brutality.

5 Last year, my brother was on his way home from
6 school. He encountered a detective. This detective, without
7 any cause, right in front of my brother, blocking his way
8 from continuing on his way home from school.

9 Once the detective got out of the car, he
10 handcuffed my 17-year-old brother to the gate, leaving him
11 there, forgotten, as if he were a stray dog roaming the
12 streets.

13 And my brother did not -- and my brother was
14 innocent. He didn't show any signs of committing a crime or
15 he had no plan to, as shown in the convenience store across
16 the street with the evidence and the footage. This -- this
17 detective had no probable cause of stopping my brother other
18 than being a young black male with a hoodie and his head held
19 down walking.

20 When I found my brother went through this in our
21 community, it made me feel unsafe and endangered, knowing
22 that police officers have powers to dehumanize young black
23 youth.

24 I don't know about you, but I'm scared to live in a
25 world with those who are placed to serve and protect me are

1 actual causing harm in my community.

2 This issue is seen beyond just my brother. Police
3 harassment is common on the streets in our parts as historic,
4 even our schools.

5 This consent decree has now been in place for over
6 five years, but CPD still has not changed its ways to treat
7 young people of color in a community like mine.

8 Young black people are being arrested for minor
9 school discipline issues, and police use offensive language
10 against us. These actions only allow for more fear and more
11 mistrust.

12 And now they want to implement a youth curfew, like
13 the (unintelligible) curfew presented by the alderpeople. I
14 feel that this is not a solution. CPD in are -- are the
15 people continues to make the same mistakes over and over
16 again.

17 Imposing restrictions, they need to ask young
18 people, like myself, and leaders for recommendations. We are
19 the ones living in this reality. We know what needs to
20 change.

21 It's cruel -- it's cruelty to include language in
22 the consent decree that protects youth from such misuse of
23 power.

24 These recommendations will hold officers to -- to
25 build connection with the community as they serve and protect

1 what's best for those within.

2 And we need -- we need real solutions, not bending.
3 It's time to listen to the voices and let -- to the voices of
4 the youth and implement policies that will recommend to truly
5 protect us and to gain connections with the CPD.

6 Thank you.

7 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you very much,
8 Ms. Simone.

9 I believe the next speaker this morning is Fred
10 Hampton, unless we have Ms. Holmes with us.

11 MR. SEPÚLVEDA: Unfortunately, I still don't
12 believe we have Ms. Holmes yet, but I believe Speaker 3 is
13 available.

14 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Great. Then we'll proceed
15 with Speaker No. 3, which is Fred Hampton.

16 MR. LEVIN: Your Honor, Mr. Hampton is here in the
17 Communities United room --

18 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Okay.

19 MR. LEVIN: -- and is actually transitioned to
20 being speaker.

21 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Sure.

22 (Brief pause.)

23 MR. LEVIN: A few more seconds, your Honor. We'll
24 have Mr. Hampton right here.

25 (Brief pause.)

1 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Good morning, sir. If you
2 could go ahead and be a brief as possible. We have lots of
3 people to hear from, but I do want to hear from you.

4 MR. HAMPTON: Yes, indeed. Good morning. Good
5 morning, all.

6 I'm Fred Hampton, Jr. I would like to premise with
7 speaking of the cases in Englewood -- Englewood and
8 North Lawndale in particular.

9 I was just going to mention to the Court, the
10 pretextual stops cases can be correlated to the infamous
11 stop and frisk policies, which in many cases (unintelligible)
12 to trivial tickets being issued to a community, in
13 particular, that's already disenfranchised and impoverished
14 which economically feeds the court system, ironically, at the
15 expense of a community, again, that's already -- I
16 reiterate -- disenfranchised.

17 Also, I want to -- there was a number of shootings
18 this week -- this past weekend alone in Chicago. This
19 reflects the fact that these policies of pretextual stops
20 serves as no deterrent -- no deterrent to crime.

21 And --

22 (Brief pause.)

23 MR. HAMPTON: Oh, my last but not least point, the
24 case of Dexter Reed. It was not -- it was -- it was -- it
25 was not seen as an aberration in our respected communities.

1 Just even the tactical units, the way that -- the
2 psychological impact resulting -- the psychological impact
3 that not only impacts the person being pulled over but also
4 the surrounding community.

5 I have witnessed multiple occasions of children --
6 youth in particular -- when they see police, from their
7 viewpoint, they see it as a regular traffic stop. They can
8 see the fear, the shock and awe that's in the eyes of
9 children.

10 Those are my points I just wanted to lay out for
11 the record.

12 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you very much,
13 Mr. Hampton. We appreciate your time this morning.

14 Our next speaker, I believe, is Dod McColgan.

15 MS. MCCOLGAN: Yes. Good morning. I'm here.

16 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Oh, good. Good morning.

17 MS. MCCOLGAN: Good morning, everyone.

18 My name is Dod McColgan. I'm a cochair with the
19 Chicago Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression.
20 We're a part of the Empowering Communities for Public Safety
21 Coalition that fought to pass the ECPS ordinance in 2021 that
22 created the citywide Community Commission for Public Safety
23 and Accountability.

24 And I'm here today to urge this body to not
25 approach this problem of addressing pretextual traffic stops

1 in any way that impedes the powers of that citywide
2 commission to address this problem directly.

3 There's a lot of discussion about community
4 engagement that goes on regarding the consent decree.
5 Throughout the consent decree you can see elements that refer
6 to the importance of community engagement.

7 And this body, the citywide commission, is a result
8 of the community engaging ourselves as a result of people
9 stepping forward and saying, this is how we want to approach
10 the problems that we see with policing in our community. We
11 want to have the power to do that ourselves and have a say in
12 it and to end these, you know, racist pretextual traffic
13 stops.

14 It's extremely important that this commission have
15 the power to address them because when those demands come up
16 out of the community and the community has a way to address
17 them ourselves, this body doesn't seem to have an interest in
18 standing in the way of that.

19 And so whatever role it is that the consent decree
20 has in regards to pretextual traffic stops should not stand
21 in the way of that direct and immediate action that both
22 allows us to move at the pace of the people and to move at
23 the pace of the demand for justice and also has the best
24 capability for real community engagement on a block-by-block
25 and district-by-district level through the Police District

1 Councils that serve as the eyes and the ears of that
2 commission who the people -- who we, the people, directly
3 elect to represent us on these questions.

4 And so I think, you know, we need to be ensuring
5 that the power of that commission to act urgently,
6 immediately, and, you know, with engagement of the community
7 on this -- on this question of pretextual traffic stops is
8 preserved, supported and respected by any, you know,
9 involvement that the consent decree has in this process.

10 We've spoken -- you know, tens of thousands of
11 Chicagoans were engaged in the process of, you know, passing
12 ECPS. We spoke with them in the community tabling on a
13 weekly basis. We've spoken to many people in the community
14 about the issue of pretextual traffic stops. And we've
15 heard, you know, a variety of stories about how they cause
16 harm in the community from the racist harassment that's been
17 referred to to the most severe cases like that of Dexter Reed
18 and also from the side of workforce allocation and people
19 knowing that they're not getting the responses when they have
20 the most urgent need for emergency services while those
21 resources are being used to engage in these pretextual
22 traffic stops.

23 And so the City and the people of the city are
24 united around addressing this problem, and we deserve to play
25 a role in it, and this citywide commission is how we can play

1 a role in it.

2 And so I would just like to emphasize the
3 significance of not getting in the way of that citywide
4 commission of the bodies that we fought to create ourselves,
5 of the way the community engages ourselves in this -- in the
6 questions of policing and public safety in our city from, you
7 know, having that say that we have fought for.

8 And so, you know, I don't think it's in the
9 interest of this body. I don't think it's aligned with the
10 goals of this body to get in the way of that.

11 So I urge you to preserve the powers and the role
12 that the commission has to play in this process in however
13 the consent decree chooses to be involved.

14 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Those are helpful points.
15 Thank you, Ms. McColgan. I am making notes here.

16 I think our next speaker is Merced Alday, who will
17 be speaking to us through an interpreter. So whenever
18 Ms. Alday is ready, I think we're ready to hear.

19 MR. LEVIN: Okay, your Honor. Ms. Alday is getting
20 her interpreter. Ms. Alday is here as well.

21 THE INTERPRETER: Good morning. This is the
22 interpreter. I just wanted to test that you can hear me.

23 MS. ALDAY: (Speaking in Spanish.)

24 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Ms. Alday, I wonder if you
25 could -- can I ask you -- can I ask you to take breaks here

1 so I could hear from the interpreter as well.

2 MR. LEVIN: Your Honor, if I may?

3 Ms. Alday and Ms. Seglar (phonetic) are going to
4 alternate. So it may be more of a paragraph-by-paragraph --

5 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: All right.

6 MR. LEVIN: -- flow for the interpretation.

7 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Okay. That's fine.

8 MS. ALDAY: (Through interpreter) Good morning,
9 your Honor.

10 My name is Merced Alday. I am a Latina mother of
11 four children. I am an organizer and leader of Communities
12 United, which is part of the coalition.

13 My first language is Spanish. I do not speak,
14 read, or understand much English.

15 The consent decree (unintelligible) requires the
16 Chicago Police Department to provide interpreters and
17 translated documents for people like me who do not speak,
18 read, or understand English. But the Chicago Police
19 Department has not done so, even though the consent decree
20 has been in effect for five years.

21 I migrated a long time ago. My children wanted to
22 study; but in Mexico, there were no opportunities to pay for
23 their studies. My husband and I made the difficult decision
24 to migrate, leave our family, and leave my profession as a
25 social worker.

1 As many migrant families, we always put our
2 children first. We're always the (unintelligible). We work
3 two or three jobs. We feed our children first, and then we
4 as parents, we eat last. It has always been my priority to
5 care for, protect, and ensure that my children do not lack
6 anything.

7 One day, about three years ago, my son's friends
8 asked for us to accompany him to celebrate his friend's
9 birthday. My son did not know that the dad had a restraining
10 order against my son's friends.

11 When they arrived, the father and the friend got
12 into a fight, and my son intervened to protect his friend. I
13 did not know this had happened.

14 Before I knew what had happened, the Chicago police
15 came to my house in the Albany Park neighborhood. My
16 daughter and I heard loud banging on the window and then on
17 the door.

18 I opened the door, and there were four police
19 officers, and one showed me a photo of a person I did not
20 recognize.

21 The officers were speaking only in English, which I
22 do not speak or understand. The officers held up an image
23 that was not clear.

24 Because none of the officers spoke Spanish and
25 there was no interpreter or interpretation device, I could

1 not understand what was happening. I answered in Spanish,
2 but I did not speak English, and the person in the photo is
3 not visible.

4 They showed me the photo again. I told them I did
5 not know. I was frustrated, confused, and helpless.

6 And I could not do anything when the police came
7 into my house. I felt violated of my rights. I'm very
8 afraid because I did not understand what was happening.

9 We heard the sirens, and there were many police
10 cars outside. My daughter hugged me and told -- I told her
11 everything is going to be okay; but the truth is, I did not
12 know if it would be.

13 I felt powerless. I did not know what to do. The
14 only thing I could think of is to hug my daughter, to protect
15 her. CPD cannot continue to treat my migrant community and
16 others who do not speak English this way.

17 How can they ask us to trust the police if they
18 violate our rights by not even providing interpreters so that
19 we can understand what is happening during an interaction
20 with the police?

21 I told you my story because this happened to me in
22 a diverse community. One would assume that a police
23 department as large and well-reserved as CPD in a city as
24 diverse as Chicago would be able to accommodate community
25 members who speak diverse languages, but CPD completely fails

1 to do so. We need CPD to implement a new Limited English
2 Proficiency Policy that complies with the consent decree
3 requirements of providing qualified interpreters.

4 People like me can and must believe this policy
5 conversation. We cannot allow these violations to continue.
6 It's time to act and protect our communities. I want a safe
7 community.

8 Thank you.

9 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you very much,
10 Ms. Alday.

11 I believe our next speaker is Alexandra Block. If
12 Ms. Block is ready, we can hear from her and ask her again to
13 keep things as short as she can. I really appreciate the
14 efforts people are making to comply with that.

15 MS. BLOCK: Good morning, your Honor, and good
16 morning to counsel and members of the community.

17 My name is Alexandra Block, and I'm the director of
18 the Criminal Legal System & Policing Project at the ACLU of
19 Illinois.

20 I'm speaking today on behalf of my clients, who are
21 the plaintiffs in a lawsuit called *Wilkins v. The City of*
22 *Chicago*, a proposed class action case. We're currently
23 litigating in front of Judge Rowland.

24 The *Wilkins* case alleges that since 2016, the City
25 of Chicago has engaged in a pattern and practice of racially

1 discriminatory pretextual traffic stops, which have an
2 unlawful disparate impact on black and Latino drivers in
3 violation of our clients' civil rights.

4 The case seeks to end CPD's unlawful and
5 discriminatory mass traffic stop policy.

6 Yesterday, on June 10th, Judge Rowland ruled that
7 our case, the *Wilkins* litigation, can move forward, largely
8 denying the City's motion to dismiss our client's claims.

9 Specifically, Judge Rowland upheld the validity of
10 our claims that CPD's mass traffic stop program violates the
11 Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution and the
12 Illinois Civil Rights Act.

13 Later today, you're going to hear from two of our
14 clients in the *Wilkins* case: José Manuel Almanza and Mahari
15 Bell. They will testify about their traumatic experiences
16 being pulled over repeatedly by CPD officers, and they will
17 also testify that the answer to this very serious and urgent
18 problem is not putting traffic stops under the consent decree
19 and potentially cutting them and the class that they would
20 like to represent out of the discussion.

21 Our first-named client, Wilkins, will also testify,
22 but today he's representing his employer, Communities United,
23 rather than the *Wilkins* plaintiffs. I just wanted to clarify
24 that.

25 The *Wilkins* plaintiffs have filed a motion to

1 intervene in this case on behalf of the clients and the
2 proposed class, and we'll argue that motion at the
3 appropriate time.

4 For now, the *Wilkins* plaintiffs would like the
5 Court and the State and the City to know that we are
6 dedicated to fighting against CPD's discriminatory mass
7 traffic stop program. We are also committed to ensuring that
8 any expansion of the consent decree to address any aspect of
9 CPD's pretextual traffic stop practices must follow the
10 requirements of Federal Rule 60(b)(5), including presenting
11 evidence to support whatever expansion is proposed and
12 demonstrating that the remedies identified are suitably
13 tailored to the wrongful and unlawful CPD practices to be
14 addressed.

15 The *Wilkins* plaintiffs remain very skeptical of the
16 City's self-serving offer to supposedly -- quote, unquote --
17 fix the problems with CPD's traffic stop practices by
18 bringing them under the consent decree.

19 To begin with, it's telling that the renewed
20 interest in expanding the consent decree here follow directly
21 after CPD officers shot a black man, Dexter Reed, 96 times
22 during a pretextual traffic stop.

23 Just after the incident became public, the
24 superintendent stated to the media that he would supposedly
25 fix the problem of traffic stops by bringing it under the

1 consent decree, but that feels like damage control, not a
2 genuine interest in fixing the problem.

3 We appreciate the superintendent's acknowledgment
4 today that CPD's traffic stop practices and training need
5 transformation, but if CPD really wanted to end their
6 discriminatory and harmful traffic stop practices, they could
7 do it today. They could end the use of pretextual traffic
8 stops. They could decide not to stop drivers for low-level
9 violations. They could disband their aggressive tactical
10 teams. They could prohibit quotas for traffic stops. They
11 could prohibit consent searches. But for at least 11 months,
12 CPD has known about all of these proposed solutions because
13 the *Wilkins* plaintiffs asked the Court to order these
14 solutions. They're in our complaint.

15 Advocates have been pressing for them publicly
16 before the Community Commission for Public Safety and
17 Accountability and the state legislature. But instead, the
18 City has been fighting the *Wilkins* plaintiffs at every turn
19 to maintain the City's discriminatory traffic stop practices
20 as they currently exist.

21 CPD is trying to evade accountability in our
22 *Wilkins* case, trying to avoid answering to the black and
23 Latino Chicagoans who have lived with the trauma of constant
24 pretextual traffic stops and are fighting to end them. And
25 they're trying to avoid our discovery and not having to

1 legally justify their traffic stop policies to us and the
2 public.

3 Your Honor, the Court should not allow CPD to cut
4 our clients out of this conversation. The State and the City
5 and the monitor already have the responsibility to implement
6 almost 900 paragraphs of the consent decree. The consent
7 decree is many years behind schedule.

8 On the other hand, the *Wilkins* plaintiffs have
9 demonstrated that we are equal to the task of challenging
10 CPD's mass traffic stop program to our lawsuit.

11 Aside from that, if there are other traffic stop
12 practices that the State and the City want to address, what
13 they owe to the community today is a clear demonstration of
14 exactly what unlawful practices they identify and what they
15 plan to do about it.

16 We hope the community's input on these issues will
17 be taken seriously and incorporated in a meaningful way.

18 Thank you very much on behalf of the plaintiffs in
19 *Wilkins v. Chicago*.

20 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you very much,
21 Ms. Block.

22 Our next speaker is Jennifer Edwards. So whenever
23 Ms. Edwards is ready, we can hear from her.

24 MR. SEPÚLVEDA: Your Honor, she, I believe, is just
25 accepting the promotion to panelist and should be here

1 shortly.

2 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Okay. Good.

3 MS. EDWARDS: Okay. I'm here.

4 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Great. Ms. Edwards, you're
5 welcome to -- you have the floor, and you're welcome to
6 speak. Try to keep your remarks brief. Thank you.

7 MS. EDWARDS: Good morning to everybody.

8 Our group is Communities Organized to Win and
9 Operation Neighborhood Safety. We have about 15 groups that
10 go out from -- to the gas stations with the police to help
11 stop carjackings. Okay?

12 I just have a little narrative and questions to put
13 out for people to think about.

14 Many complain that the police are reactive and not
15 proactive. It's said they get to the crime afterwards. If
16 the police are allowed to investigate prior to the incidents,
17 how can we change this picture?

18 I'm from the Grand Crossing area. We make a habit
19 of knowing our officers, also knowing about the crime
20 incidents and patterns in our districts. Our districts are
21 the 3rd, 6th, 4th, 7th, and 5th. We make a habit of being
22 involved in our community and teach each other how to
23 complain effectively and improve the problems.

24 If our officers are not allowed to talk with us,
25 stop us when they see issues or figure out the concern and

1 why and -- doing the carjackings, robberies, et cetera, how
2 will things change?

3 It's our goal to know our officers and assist in
4 stopping crime where appropriate. I've been stopped a couple
5 of times. Okay?

6 The need is to get back to some of the things that
7 the officers used to do.

8 And I mention all of these things because we're
9 looking at a different -- different generation, and we're
10 also looking at how things have changed.

11 The generations are not necessarily connecting. We
12 need to get back to what we used to have as the beat
13 integrity. We need to know our police on the street and in
14 our schools. We need to bring back Officer Friendly, and
15 again, we must know our officers.

16 With the increase in carjackings, of thefts,
17 burglaries, shootings, domestic violence crimes, how can we
18 tackle these issues?

19 Perhaps if we can get together with the police in
20 the trainings more so than what's going on, and bring some of
21 those issues out and tackle them together, generationally,
22 things might change a little bit. But just stopping the --
23 it's not a good idea to just stop the traffic stops.

24 We've seen in our communities that people just
25 recklessly go through red lights. They go through stop signs

1 that cause a lot of accidents. Quite a few things are
2 happening. They're breaking into houses.

3 How can we change all of this if we don't know our
4 police, and if we don't get together with them?

5 I put this question to the commission because --
6 both of them -- to get some ideas about what's going on.

7 We do have new community members moving into our
8 communities. We welcome them. We try to figure out how --
9 I'm trying to learn Spanish myself. I took it in college,
10 but don't remember much. Okay?

11 So we -- things are changing. We've got to figure
12 out what to do, and we can't just stop things that are
13 happening. We've got to move a little bit forward.

14 Thank you so much for listening to what I'm saying.
15 An older person here, and trying to just give my point of
16 view for my community.

17 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: That perspective is very
18 helpful, Ms. Edwards. Thank you.

19 I think we're ready to hear, then, from Carey
20 Kelly.

21 MR. SEPÚLVEDA: Your Honor, I don't believe we have
22 Speaker 8 with us. If they -- if there is anyone in
23 attendance who is maybe under a different name, we can
24 elevate them if they raise their hand, but we do have
25 Speaker 9 available.

1 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Great.

2 MR. LEVIN: Your Honor, this is (inaudible) with
3 Communities United.

4 Carey Kelly may be here later today. So if we
5 could pass Carey for now.

6 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Sure.

7 MR. LEVIN: Thank you.

8 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Sure. Then we we'll hear
9 from Speaker No. 9. That's Thomas McMahon.

10 MR. McMAHON: Good morning, your Honor. Can you
11 hear me?

12 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Yes, I can. Thank you.

13 MR. McMAHON: Good morning, your Honor, and
14 panelists.

15 My name is Thomas McMahon. I'm a retired captain
16 of the Chicago Police Department. I served this -- our men
17 in this community, the City of Chicago, for 37 years. I
18 retired in 2010.

19 I have not moved from the City of Chicago, as I
20 certainly do love my neighborhood, which is the
21 Pullman-Roseland area on the southeast side of Chicago in the
22 5th District.

23 Last year, I was elected to the police district as
24 a police district counselor for the 5th District, and I
25 currently am the chairperson for the Safety Committee for the

1 Pullman Civic Organization.

2 I want to limit my remarks today simply to the
3 traffic stop issue.

4 Limiting violations that result in traffic stops, I
5 think, is unnecessary. Traffic stops are a useful tool in
6 public safety. When used properly, the traffic stop creates
7 an image of police presence that, believe it or not, sends a
8 positive message to the community that the police are present
9 and to the criminal element that taunts this city that the
10 police are present.

11 As the current strength of CPD is down almost
12 2,000, they need every tool they have to combat crime. The
13 trend lately is to take away tools from the police, such as
14 foot chases and car chases, which creates an ineffective
15 department.

16 Would you go to a construction site and take away
17 the hammers from the carpenters and then still expect a
18 strong and safe building? I think not.

19 Laws identified in the Illinois Vehicle Code are
20 meant to create safe streets for auto, pedestrians, and
21 citizens alike. When a police officer pulls over a vehicle
22 for a traffic violation, people take notice.

23 While that vehicle is performing that traffic stop,
24 cars slow down. It's the natural inclination for people to
25 look at the action of the stop. Everyone now becomes a safer

1 driver.

2 When those bent on committing criminal activity
3 observe that same street stop, their inclination is to go
4 into another neighborhood where the police presence is not as
5 visible.

6 As to the issue of searching a vehicle during a
7 traffic stop, that is usually predicated on lack of a
8 driver's license or insurance on behalf of the driver and the
9 vehicle is about to be impounded.

10 Police need to stop -- be able to stop vehicles for
11 no license plates or expired plates. The police need to stop
12 vehicles for not wearing a seat belt. This is a huge safety
13 issue. And the police need to stop vehicles in violation of
14 all the laws listed in IVC. If not, what's next? Not
15 stopping vehicles for speeding or reckless driving, for
16 striking pedestrians?

17 Issues raised relative to the support of limiting
18 traffic stops, particularly those pretextual -- and I am not
19 in favor of a pretextual stop by any means whatsoever, but
20 traffic stops can be rectified by the use of and review of
21 body cameras, strong effective training, and better
22 supervision.

23 One of the last days of my career as a police
24 officer on the midnight shift, I observed an auto without
25 headlights on. Yes, that's a safety issue. And I certainly

1 pulled that car over and told the driver that he needed to
2 turn his lights on for his safety, for my safety and other
3 pedestrians that may or may not be in the area.

4 But I also knew in the back of my mind that many
5 cars that are stolen are driven away from the scene of the
6 theft by individuals that don't know how to operate the
7 vehicle and can't find the light switch to turn that
8 headlight on.

9 So after stopping a vehicle and ascertaining that,
10 A, it was not stolen, I sent the thankful driver on their way
11 in a safer vehicle.

12 So it's not a pretextual stop by any means. At
13 least I don't believe it fits that criteria. It was meant
14 for the safety of people on the street and for the safety of
15 the driver of that vehicle.

16 On another note, guns used in drive-by shootings
17 plaguing the City are driven to and from the scene in
18 autos -- autos that commit violations -- traffic
19 violations -- are not properly licensed.

20 Legal traffic stops are the first line of defense
21 in combatting this epidemic. Yes, I believe, as the
22 superintendent does, this issue needs oversight. Traffic
23 stops have to be constitutional and legal and within the
24 parameters of the Fourth Amendment.

25 We have to get buy-in by CPD personnel. No

1 question about that. And also, there has to be an
2 understanding and communication with the community. And
3 that's where I come in as a police district counsel, as I try
4 to educate the community as to what these practices are.

5 So my position still is and always will be that
6 traffic stops are a useful tool for the Police Department.

7 Thank you, your Honor, for your time. Thank you,
8 panelists, for your efforts and your time.

9 Thank you.

10 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, Officer McMahon.

11 I think our next speaker is -- unless Ms. Kelly is
12 here, we are ready to hear from Maya Simkin, Speaker No. 10.

13 MR. SEPÚLVEDA: Your Honor, she might be just
14 transitioning to a panelist. She should be here.

15 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Okay. Good.

16 MS. SIMKIN: Hi there. Hi, your Honor. Thank you.

17 My name is (audio interruption), representing
18 Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts and the coalition.

19 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you.

20 MS. SIMKIN: (Audio interruption) to address the
21 proposal of incorporating traffic stops into a CPD consent
22 decree.

23 First, we think there are serious issues with the
24 consent decree being a tool used to handle this issue. The
25 consent decree's progress has been alarmingly slow and

1 limited. After more than five years and 700 provisions, the
2 Chicago Police Department has only achieved 7 percent full
3 compliance.

4 Many decisions under the consent decree are made
5 behind closed doors with limited community engagement and
6 lack meaningful dialogue. The slow progress raises
7 significant concerns about its capacity to handle the swift,
8 robust changes needed to gild pretextual traffic stops.

9 The CPD's use of traffic stops result in racially
10 disparate police contact, over-policing, and further erosion
11 of community trust. The CCPSA was created to address these
12 issues with a community-driven approach; but, unfortunately,
13 they lose authority as a result of this decision.

14 If the consent decree does become the sole use to
15 handle traffic stops, we recommend that the policy
16 implemented, which we think should be done within six months,
17 should include robust community engagement. Community
18 members must be given actual decision-making powers to draft,
19 review, and approve the quality to end pretextual vehicle
20 stops.

21 That policy, we believe, should include, first,
22 prohibiting law enforcement from conducting pretextual stops
23 where the intention is to investigate unrelated criminal
24 activity without reasonable suspicion.

25 Two, limiting traffic stops for minor infractions,

1 like broken headlights or expired registration.

2 And finally, three, ending suspicionless consent
3 searches, safeguarding individuals' privacy, and preventing
4 unwarranted searches that perpetuate systemic injustice.

5 The Free2Move Coalition has already drafted policy
6 language that we would like to submit to the Court as
7 recommendations.

8 We understand the urgency felt by the independent
9 monitor, Attorney General, and City of Chicago to address
10 traffic stops. We share that urgency. Let's ensure that our
11 approach is community focused and effective, and let's not
12 undermine the tools that we have already put in place to
13 serve our community.

14 Thank you.

15 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you very much,
16 Ms. Simkin.

17 Is Patricia Jjemba with us? I think she's
18 Speaker No. 11.

19 MS. JJEMBA: Yes. Hello. Can you hear me?

20 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Yes, I can. Thanks.

21 MS. JJEMBA: Wonderful. Thank you. Good morning.

22 My name is Patricia Jjemba, and I'm the Director of
23 Legislative and External Affairs with the law office of the
24 Cook County Public Defender.

25 I'm here today because Chicago police practices

1 impact a majority of the 70,000 cases we are assigned to
2 annually.

3 The Cook County Public Defender stands with the
4 Free2Move Coalition's position against incorporating traffic
5 stops into the consent decree unless the coalition's
6 three-part policy proposal is adopted in full.

7 We do not take this position lightly. Pretextual
8 traffic stops harm our clients daily, which is why it is
9 critical to include community voices in any traffic stop
10 policy.

11 It is undisputed that CPD uses investigatory stops,
12 pat-downs, and traffic stops in a disproportionate and even
13 violent manner against black, Latinx, and poor Chicagoans.

14 CPD officers target and wait for these drivers to
15 commit minor traffic violations or outright fabricate
16 violations as justification to pull them over.

17 These stops are not only a constitutional violation
18 but also often the gateway to criminal charges, inflicting a
19 lifetime of collateral consequences.

20 As part of these criminal cases, our attorneys
21 review tens of thousands of hours of body-worn camera. This
22 footage reveals what police reports often fail to do: fishing
23 expeditions against thousands of individuals. Drivers and
24 passengers are harassed, bullied, taunted, and pulled out of
25 their vehicles in violent and humiliating ways.

1 Our attorneys see the scenario repeated thousands
2 of times even though our clients are part of the small subset
3 of stops in which contraband is found, not the other 90-plus
4 percent.

5 Many of our clients have valid FOID cards and
6 mistakenly believe that allows them to legally possess a
7 firearm. When CPD finds a gun in a car, they arrest drivers
8 and even passengers who may otherwise be law-abiding gun
9 owners but for their lack of concealed carry license. Thus,
10 begins a criminal prosecution that can result in lost jobs
11 and housing, pretrial services appointments that conflict
12 with work, childcare, or even educational commitments, and
13 electronic monitoring and home confinement.

14 It is clear that, if left to their own devices or
15 oversight, CPD lacks the ability to curb these oppressive
16 practices.

17 Our attorneys additionally fail to have the proper
18 recourse in terms of when they're in court trying to question
19 attorneys as to the consent decree itself. This month
20 specifically, we actually had an attorney who was denied the
21 opportunity to question an officer on the basic principles
22 outlined in the consent decree.

23 The Cook County Public Defender's Office,
24 therefore, urges this Honorable Court to include community
25 entities, such as CCPSA, to create realistic, helpful policy

1 that will force CPD to prohibit pretextual traffic stops,
2 limit stops for lower-level traffic offenses, and restrict
3 consent searches.

4 Thank you for the opportunity to speak on such an
5 important issue.

6 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you very much for
7 joining us this morning.

8 I think our next speaker, then, is Jasmine Smith.

9 MS. SMITH: Hello. Can you guys hear me?

10 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Yes, I can. Thank you,
11 Ms. Smith.

12 MS. SMITH: Good morning, Judge.

13 And I just want to thank everybody for the
14 transparency and allowing the public to be able to make our
15 public comments for this particular issue.

16 Judge and everyone who has the power to say and to
17 the ultimate decision of the pretextual stops being
18 (unintelligible) in the consent decree, I would like to just
19 point out Ms. Berlock (phonetic) and Ms. Maya Simkin and Dod
20 McColgan and Ms. Patricia Jjemba, all of these people who
21 have -- oh, I'm sorry.

22 I am Jasmine Smith, cochair of Chicago Alliance
23 Against Racist and Political Repression, and also the cochair
24 of Campaign to Free Incarcerated Survivors of Wrongfully
25 Convicted and Torture Survivors.

1 I'm also a single mother of a teenage daughter who
2 has been gunned down in the West Side of Chicago, Illinois.
3 She was shot six times -- four times in her stomach, twice in
4 her leg -- and she was able to survive. And there have been
5 no justice from CPD or no detectives that help, you know,
6 through the process of her healing or even bringing the
7 gunman down who actually shot her.

8 So I am a person who is a living testimony and
9 witness to not only the gun violence here in Chicago but also
10 a loved one and an advocate for people who have been
11 wrongfully convicted by CPD and wrongfully pulled over due to
12 the pretextual stops.

13 So I just want to really urge your Honor and
14 everyone else who has the ultimate decision to really listen
15 to the community and look at the facts that the community is
16 bringing to you guys. The numbers doesn't lie, the
17 statistics doesn't lie, and the studies isn't lying.

18 Pretextual stops is not helping the community but
19 more so harming the community. And if it's harming the
20 community and if you have more community coming and saying
21 that this is something that's not helping and that we don't
22 need, I think you guys really need to listen to what the
23 community is saying and not what the CPD or FOP is saying
24 because they are liars.

25 The fact is, CPD do more harm than help. There's

1 not all bad cops, but the bad cops outweigh the good cops.

2 I witnessed a pretextual stop last night while I
3 was out working. The Jump Out Boys -- it was the big boys --
4 pulled over a young man that was in a nice car that was a
5 fast car, and his windows was tinted. Pulled him over. All
6 I could do was pray for that young man.

7 And when I pulled back around, they let him go, I
8 guess, because he had his credentials. But everything was
9 up-to-date up on his car. And the reason why they probably
10 pulled him over is because he had a fast car and tinted
11 windows. And that's -- that's one of the main reasons why we
12 are arguing here today.

13 A lot of these tactical teams that's put in place
14 that we are fighting to be disband is reasons of such,
15 because they should not have -- they should not have those
16 type of problems where, at any given time, because someone is
17 in a nice car or a fast car or got tinted windows, that they
18 should be pulling people over.

19 We're not talking about minor traffic stops where
20 people do get away -- I mean, are let go alive, and there was
21 a safe -- and the police let them go and then bullied them.
22 We're talking about the numbers of many people who didn't
23 make it out alive from pretextual stops, didn't make it out
24 of getting away from being, you know, racially profiled by
25 these officers.

1 Like -- and then we're speaking about what --
2 what -- what systems help. The consent decree we know is a
3 slow, snailing process and that policies are put in the
4 consent decree so it can be buried and not for justice to be
5 served for the community.

6 And this is why we're fighting against and urging
7 you guys to not bypass the local entities that we have put in
8 place, like CCPSA, that could immediately address the
9 community concerns with the pretextual stops and everything
10 else that the community is bringing to this body, that the
11 powers that they have that be, they can make a change for the
12 best interest of the community.

13 We're not -- we don't need the consent decree,
14 which is a federal body that was created, which has been in
15 place for five years, and nothing has changed within police
16 accountability or justice for our people who have been
17 harmed, and me as a person who has been harmed by the police
18 for years now. My loved ones have been -- served together
19 31 years for being wrongfully convicted.

20 And because of organizations and communities
21 banding with me to shed light on one of the highest-paid
22 sergeants, they forced him to retire. He's collecting a
23 pension, but there is no accountability.

24 And this is why black young boys and black young
25 women don't trust the police, because nothing is being done

1 for the police when they are harming us. Nothing is being
2 done when they are snatching away these kids who are out
3 here, you know, engaging in, you know, gun violence and stuff
4 like that. Their fathers are in prison, and many of them are
5 in prison for being wronged by the police.

6 So where is the accountability or the transparency
7 for police being held for the wrongs that they've done in our
8 community? We don't have it. And until we get it, then we
9 can build community trust. Then we can build that Mr. -- the
10 Officer Friendly.

11 What people are asking for us to give back, we
12 can't get that back until the bad apples are held
13 accountable. We can't get that back until we actually have
14 effective, effective policies put in place to give the
15 community justice of what we're asking for. If we're not
16 getting it, then there will not be any justice in the
17 community of Chicago, Illinois.

18 And the people who are being impacted the most are
19 the low -- the poverty communities, the people who have the
20 less resources. You don't have too many crimes going on up
21 North. They have all of the resources. Those people are
22 living they good life.

23 And then, here on the South Side and the West Side,
24 we are given the bare minimum. These kids don't have no free
25 programs to go to.

1 And then, the police saying that they want to help
2 us. If you want to help us, get mental health services and
3 trauma crisis officers who are being trained for that, not
4 being -- and then get proper training for the way that they
5 restrain our young teenagers.

6 I know for a fact all of our teenagers are going to
7 be hanging out this summer at the lake. And the police
8 should know that, too. But we should have police officers
9 who are able to deal with these teenagers who are abusing
10 their health by getting drunk or getting high and knowing how
11 to address them. If you know you're addressing intoxicated
12 kids, don't address them aggressively. Try to speak with
13 them.

14 These officers are not doing that. They are not
15 doing it with our kids, and they're not doing it with the
16 adults. They are abusing the powers that they have, and
17 those powers do need to be decreased and do need to be set
18 down and mediated with the community and with them.

19 And officers have shown time and time again, CPD
20 does not want to work with the community. CPD wants to
21 continue to stand by that godforsaken code and to continue to
22 hide and bury their skeletons and get away with the crimes
23 that they commit, but then want to hold the public
24 accountable for everything that they do instead of working
25 together and trying to really decrease the crimes and working

1 with us and not abusing us.

2 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you so much. I
3 appreciate your comments, Ms. Smith. And I've made -- I'm
4 going to take them very seriously.

5 MS. SMITH: Thank you.

6 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: I believe the next
7 speaker -- No. 13 is no longer with us.

8 But 14, Queen Adesuyi, is with us; is that right?

9 MS. ADESUYI: Yes. Can you hear me?

10 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Yes, I can. Go right
11 ahead.

12 MS. ADESUYI: Thank you.

13 Good morning, everyone. My name is Queen Adesuyi,
14 and I'm representing Color of Change and our 46,000 members
15 in Cook County.

16 First and foremost, I want to extend my deepest
17 condolences to the family of 26-year-old Dexter Reed.
18 Mr. Reed was killed by tactical unit officers in March after
19 being shot at 96 times in the span of 41 seconds during an
20 unnecessarily aggressive traffic stop related to an alleged
21 seat belt violation.

22 Despite the inappropriate response from the Chicago
23 FOP president, who called for the immediate termination of
24 COPA's chief administrator within 48 hours of COPA's release
25 of body cam footage of Mr. Reed's traffic stop and murder,

1 there's no doubt that Mr. Reed should be alive today.

2 Sadly, his murder is not an anomaly. The stakes in
3 strengthening police accountability, transparency, and
4 broader policing reform are extremely high, though tangled in
5 FOP politics that reject real change.

6 I speak Mr. Reed's name and of his murder and his
7 testimony to highlight how critically urgent it is that we
8 end pretextual stops in the City of Chicago.

9 With that urgency in mind, COC stands with the
10 Free2Move Coalition stance that contextual stops must not be
11 added to the consent decree.

12 After more than five years, only about 7 percent of
13 compliance has been reached under the consent decree. This
14 is alarming and must be addressed, especially because so many
15 other critical policing issues are already under the control
16 of the consent decree.

17 Furthermore, we stand with our partners in their
18 request that the CPD (unintelligible) retain the power to
19 create CPD traffic stop policy. Citywide black drivers are
20 six times more likely to be stopped compared to their white
21 counterparts, and the vast majority of CPD's traffic stops
22 are for minor traffic violations.

23 CPD traffic stops are evidence to not be an
24 effective tool to stop or prevent violence. In fact, traffic
25 stops continue to be the most common event types where an

1 officer points their weapon.

2 Unfortunately, the use of force at traffic stops
3 happen far too often, and almost all uses of force are
4 against Chicagoans's of color.

5 In 2023, 95 percent of uses of force at traffic
6 stops were against Chicagoans of color, with 78 percent being
7 against black Chicagoans, specifically.

8 The CCPSA was created to address racial disparate
9 police contact, police misconduct, over-policing and further
10 degrading community trust and inefficient use of police
11 resources. CPD's traffic stop policies fall squarely in that
12 scope.

13 Members of the full -- the first full term CCPSA
14 have expressed interest in developing a policy addressing
15 pretextual stops.

16 If CPD traffic stops are incorporated entirely into
17 the consent decree, you will be cutting off this new and
18 important public safety entity's ability to address this
19 issue swiftly and directly.

20 We appreciate and understand the urgency that the
21 independent monitor, the Attorney General, and other Chicago
22 officials feel toward addressing this issue. We recognize
23 this as a dire need as well.

24 We implore all of Chicago's public safety and
25 police accountability stakeholders to collaborate and support

1 each other in ensuring that strong evidence-based policies
2 are created swiftly, implemented effectively, and have a
3 strong infrastructure and avenue for community engagement
4 every step of the way.

5 Thank you.

6 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you very much.

7 Ms. Roxanne Smith.

8 MR. SEPÚLVEDA: Your Honor, there was a quick
9 adjustment. I believe we're going to try to have Speaker 25,
10 Keron Blair, replace No. 15.

11 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: That's fine. We'll hear
12 from Keron Blair, then, next.

13 MR. BLAIR: Good morning, everyone, and thank you
14 for having us and having me.

15 My name is Keron Blair. I am the organizing and
16 policy manager at Community Renewal Society, and we organize
17 and represent about 50 congregations across Illinois, the
18 vast majority of which are in Chicago.

19 And we arrive at our agenda and our position on
20 issues by working with consultants, talking with our
21 community members and our leaders to understand what their
22 concerns are and what positions we should take as an
23 organization.

24 First, it is important for me and for our
25 organization to be clear that we are -- we support calls to

1 end pretextual stops. We are, however, in opposition to the
2 plan to move pretextual stops into the consent decree for a
3 number of reasons, and they align really well with what some
4 of our community allies have said.

5 First, we believe -- and we've had a lot of
6 conversation about this -- that if CPD and the OAG's plan is
7 that this is not really about accountability and swiftly
8 ending pretextual stops, but is about a kind of red tape-in
9 of the problem.

10 We believe that if CPD was serious about addressing
11 this problem, it could end pretextual traffic stops today
12 without the glacially moving and massive bureaucracy that is
13 the consent decree.

14 If CPD was serious about community safety, as it
15 says it is, it could have announced a ban on pretextual stops
16 the day after Dexter Reed was killed.

17 Second, we believe that the existing consent
18 decree, while it might be necessary -- it's a necessary tool
19 for very complex structural reforms, like reorganizing CPD's
20 entire work force allocation and things like that, but the
21 solution to this issue of pretextual stops is simple: ban
22 pretextual stops. This kind of straightforward policy change
23 does not require, again, the glacially and slow pace in
24 movement of the consent decree. The urgency of this problem,
25 as echoed by a number of the previous speakers, isn't a good

1 fit for the consent decree.

2 It also is extremely concerning that CPD -- the
3 plan put forward would like -- would likely move this issue
4 out of the hands of the newly elected CCPSA.

5 CRS is against stripping this new body of its
6 power. CCPSA is the democratically elected local body for
7 ensuring police accountability and should be the
8 (audio interruption) how to address CPD's harmful traffic
9 stop practices.

10 CRS cannot afford the idea of bringing traffic
11 stops into the consent decree.

12 Also, because what we've seen, what we've heard
13 does not include impacted community members at the table to
14 solve the problem of pretextual stops.

15 Finally, our Community Renewal Society and our
16 members and our congregations and our organizers cannot
17 support the idea of bringing traffic stops into the consent
18 decree when we have no idea what the substantive scope of the
19 potential stipulation would be. What accountability measures
20 would be included in the stipulation to ensure that the
21 discriminatory excessive pretextual stops actually get
22 addressed in a tight timeline and in the way that actually
23 changes officer behavior? These measures are the kinds of
24 things that are essential to any effort to address CPD
25 traffic stops.

1 Again, we are clear that the consent decree has its
2 place and that traffic stops and pretextual stops is not the
3 place to resolve that. CPD, if it wanted to, could make
4 those policy changes today swiftly and immediately, and that
5 is what we call for.

6 Thank you.

7 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you very much,
8 Mr. Blair.

9 Okay. And I understand Mr. Blair was replacing
10 Roxanne Smith in the lineup as opposed to -- we will -- we
11 will not be hearing from Ms. Smith; is that right?

12 MR. SEPÚLVEDA: They switched order. So she will
13 be --

14 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: She'll be later. Okay.
15 Got it.

16 All right. Then I will turn next to Erin White.

17 MR. SEPÚLVEDA: And, your Honor, I believe we are
18 currently missing Speakers 16, 17, and 18. However, I
19 believe we do have Speaker 19.

20 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Great. Well, then when
21 those other individuals are here, we'll certainly back up and
22 get to them.

23 But right now I'll hear from Alexandra Moreno
24 through an interpreter.

25 MR. LEVIN: Your Honor, Ms. Moreno will be

1 testifying in English. So she actually does not need an
2 interpreter.

3 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Oh, that's great. Okay.
4 Thank you. That's good.

5 Ms. Moreno, whenever you are ready, you are welcome
6 to get started.

7 MS. MORENO: Hello, your Honor.

8 My name is Alexandra Moreno, and I'm 20 years old.
9 I am a Latina young person who is bilingual in English,
10 Spanish. I live on the North Side of Chicago. I am a
11 college student. Aspire to become a social worker.

12 I have an Individualized Education Program, IEP,
13 because I need (unintelligible) individual instruction to
14 learn. This creates challenges.

15 IEP has not stopped me for continuing my education.
16 I always find a way to overcome obstacles, and I never
17 hesitate to ask questions when I don't understand.

18 I have worked tireless to advocate for myself.
19 Have been involved in the community organized since I was 10
20 years old.

21 Currently, I'm a part of the fellowship program
22 with Communities United, which is a part of the coalition.
23 My journey has not been easy, but the support of my family,
24 my community, has helped me overcome many challenges.

25 Today, I want to share a briefly personal

1 experience that I had with the Chicago Police that left me
2 feeling voiceless, frustrated, powerless, and terrified me.

3 I was 17 years old, and it was just my mom and me
4 at home in our house in Albany Park. My mom was cleaning
5 while I was in my room doing homework.

6 Suddenly, I heard someone banging on the door. My
7 mom asked, (speaking Spanish). "Who is this?" From my room
8 I heard, "We are the police. Open the door."

9 My mom opened the door. My mom, who doesn't speak
10 English, tried to communicate with them in Spanish, but they
11 didn't understand what she was saying. There was no Spanish
12 interpreter present. There was no police officer present who
13 spoke Spanish. The officers didn't even use a base
14 technology to do a virtual interpretation for her on the
15 phone.

16 My mom called me because I speak English. Because
17 she couldn't communicate with the police, she needed to
18 depend on her 17-year-old daughter to translate.

19 I say to the officers, "What seems to be the
20 problem?" I tried to understand them, but they screamed at
21 me, thinking that it will help me to understand. I didn't.
22 I felt helpless. I felt terrified. I couldn't help my mom,
23 my brother, or myself. All I could do was hug my mom.

24 I'm sharing my story today because no child,
25 underage person, no person's parents should ever feel the way

1 I did.

2 The Chicago Police Department has enough
3 (unintelligible) to provide proposed interpretation for both
4 written and verbal service. CPD must ensure that when
5 officers interact with someone who doesn't speak English, CPD
6 is providing interpreters and translation documents.

7 CPD current policy are limited of English
8 (unintelligible) has changed in 12 years. We need CPD to
9 immediately fix policy, an actual practice on the ground so
10 that people with limit English could communicate with CPD,
11 just like English speakers do.

12 We need CPD to resolve this problem by listening to
13 and incorporating the solution that people like myself and
14 others are directly impacted. This multiple-layer issue
15 presides to this date with young people still being interact
16 by the police. And at that time, young people who do speak
17 fluent English begin asking to interpret for their families.

18 I'm asking you, your Honor, if many years pass, to
19 modify CPD policy and CPD's behavior with people who don't
20 speak or understand English. Let's make sure that no other
21 child or young people feel helpless as I did that day.

22 Thank you so much, your Honor.

23 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you very much,
24 Ms. Moreno.

25 And I believe Crista Noël is next.

1 MS. NOËL: I am, your Honor.

2 How are you?

3 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: I'm fine.

4 And you're welcome to get started whenever you're
5 ready.

6 MS. NOËL: Okay. And I apologize for the last
7 testimony, that I was on the phone but not in person.

8 Okay. So traffic stops. The use of the term
9 "pretextual" bothers me because what we're really talking
10 about is illegal seizures, right?

11 There's -- the idea that there's some pretext, as
12 if there is a reason somewhere for them to stop you, I have a
13 problem with.

14 These are illegal seizures, and they should be
15 called illegal seizures. And the fact that so many people
16 are using the term "pretextual" just makes me believe that
17 they're falling in line with the rest of the euphemisms that
18 the police departments put out there, like "excessive force"
19 instead of "murder" and "aggravated battery."

20 People who are discussing the consent decree -- and
21 I represent Women's All Points Bulletin, WAPB, a member of
22 the coalition for the consent decree, the first set of
23 plaintiffs, the Campbell plaintiffs that sued for the consent
24 decree.

25 People who are saying that the consent decree is

1 slow moving and all the rest of this don't have their eyes on
2 the prize. The prize is not to fit into deadline. The prize
3 is change management, and change management doesn't happen
4 overnight. Okay?

5 800 paragraphs of things to do is a lot, and it
6 will take years. And I don't care -- I told some people the
7 other day, I don't care if it takes a century. It took them
8 centuries to get to this place. It may take centuries to get
9 them out of racist, systemic, institutional, and structural
10 racism and practices, policies and procedures.

11 Okay. The consent decree absolutely needs to hold
12 traffic stops. You know why? Because traffic stops need to
13 be under federal oversight. They need to be under your
14 jurisdiction. They can't just be flying out there with the
15 community.

16 And I'm the community. My organization represents
17 the community. I'm in this work because of a traffic stop,
18 so I know. But I also know that you can't just give it to
19 anyone and let them do the work, especially people who have
20 stabbed other people in the back.

21 Let me give you a little history because we've been
22 doing this work for over 14 years.

23 When the kids came into the movement, which was
24 about 2014 -- and we considered them the soldiers on the
25 ground. They are the ones who were walking and marching and

1 hollering and screaming. They were screaming for Rekia Boyd.
2 They were screaming for Damo Franklin. And then later on,
3 they started screaming for -- Jesus, his name escapes me
4 right now -- the young man that was shot 16 times. They
5 started screaming for him. But this was back in 2014.

6 First thing, Women's All Points Bulletin went for
7 the consent decree. The kids, as we charged genocide, went
8 for the STOP Act. The STOP Act was to stop traffic stops.
9 Okay?

10 And they had gotten in to talk to the mayor and all
11 these different things. And the next thing you know, here
12 comes the ACLU stabbing them in the back, going behind their
13 backs and setting up this thing with Rahm where they would
14 get all of the information on traffic stops,
15 blahty-blahty-blah. This could have been over in 2014.

16 So the ACLU sitting before you telling you that it
17 shouldn't be under a consent decree while they try to create
18 another consent decree to put traffic stops under after they
19 had stabbed the community in the back in 2014, when they
20 tried to address this, is completely ridiculous. Okay? It's
21 completely ridiculous for me to watch them sit here with a
22 straight face saying that it's taking so long and that you're
23 undermining their clients.

24 They undermined the community back in 2014. So I
25 look at them, and I do not see -- your Honor, even to the

1 extent that when Campbell asked the ACLU to join us -- join
2 us in the consent decree, they refused to do it. They
3 refused to do it. They created another body. Okay?

4 So I don't trust them as far as I can throw them,
5 and you don't trust them as far as you can throw them,
6 because they created all these people to come before you to
7 say, "Don't put it under the consent decree," so they can
8 stab the community in the back again. I don't -- I don't go
9 for it.

10 So here is where I am.

11 One, absolutely it needs federal oversight.

12 Two, this whole idea that the consent decree is --
13 everything is behind everybody's back, it is not.

14 The other -- the IMT sends out the policies. This
15 is the problem of not communicating well enough with the
16 community, not that the community isn't involved and is
17 behind people's backs.

18 Dexter Reed. The ACLU, "They're just doing it
19 because of Dexter Reed."

20 You know what, your Honor? When you have people
21 shoot at a human being 96 times, if you were asleep, you
22 better wake up. You better wake up and put your foot down
23 and say, you know what? We've been trying to get this done
24 since 2014 and before. This is like Mike Brown. It's like
25 Rekia Boyd. It is the incident that means that, yes, there

1 is a sense of urgency.

2 And the CCPA has been around for I don't know how
3 long. But, you know, everybody is saying, don't shut the
4 CCPA out.

5 The coalition -- at least my view as a Campbell
6 plaintiff, Women's All Points Bulletin, the coalition can
7 work with the CCPSA. We can work with them. If they need
8 our help, they can have it. It does not have to be an
9 either/or. The CCPSA and the coalition can work well
10 together to get this done. It needs to be under federal
11 oversight.

12 Now, as far as these people who are saying all
13 these things about what the consent decree hasn't done, let's
14 make it very clear that we said we wanted the police to stop
15 killing us. That was number one. Sanctity of life.

16 So, your Honor, when I started back in 2009, there
17 was a year that the Chicago Police Department killed
18 22 people. 22. Your Honor, 22 people was half the number of
19 people that were executed in the entire United States, and
20 those were people who had gone to trial.

21 Do you know how many people they've killed this
22 year? Two. Do you know how many people they killed in 2023?
23 2022? Two. They went up in 2020 -- I'm sorry. In 2023,
24 they went up to six. 2022, they went down to two people.
25 Ever since the consent decree has been in existence, they

1 have been in single digits.

2 We told them we wanted them down to zero. They're
3 almost there. Changed management does not happen overnight.
4 We are doing what we can do.

5 But this whole thing around, the consent decree
6 isn't doing this, and it isn't -- it's tiring. We are doing
7 what we need to do. One shooting, I feel as if it was
8 justified this year. But the Dexter Reed shooting was not in
9 any way, shape, or form justified, and it is the reason why
10 we are here.

11 These meetings that they're talking about, "The
12 consent decree doesn't do" -- the reason why these meetings
13 exist is because of the community members and the consent
14 decree and the coalition.

15 So that's where we are. We need to be under
16 federal oversight. We can work with the CCPSA. It's not an
17 either/or. You need to be over this. We don't need another
18 consent decree. And don't let the ACLU for one minute fool
19 you into believing that they really care about the community.

20 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you very much,
21 Ms. Noël, for your comments.

22 I believe Robert Ross is our next scheduled
23 speaker, No. 21. Is Mr. Ross ready?

24 MR. ROSS: Yes, ma'am.

25 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you. You are welcome

1 to get started whenever you want, Mr. Ross.

2 MR. ROSS: (Unintelligible) the consent decree is a
3 lot to think about. It's a lot to think about traffic stops
4 and people that stop you and get out of the car with an
5 attitude.

6 It's -- I wonder sometimes if they forget that they
7 are human and they are talking to humans, because there is no
8 level of emotion. And what you put out, you get back.

9 You know, they don't know how to address you when
10 they stop you. Some of the stops, it's a little overboard,
11 because how are you constantly grabbing a gun, putting your
12 hand on your gun when you're talking about a traffic stop, or
13 the emotions in the traffic stop? You know, I think you
14 forget sometimes the emotional part of it and how we talk to
15 each other and how we address each other, because you can
16 come off the wrong way and get it back the wrong way.

17 I mean, there's -- you know, traffic stops, traffic
18 lights, you see things, you know -- and when I heard somebody
19 speaking about the traffic when you don't have your lights
20 on -- there's a difference in having your lights on and
21 signaling somebody to put they lights on, because there's
22 different signals behind that. And if you're not up with the
23 public or the traffic, then you really don't know. So you're
24 really just traveling blind.

25 But the officers can make it a little better on

1 how -- the way they address you when they get out of the car
2 and talk to you or ask you about a traffic stop and dealing
3 with you on a traffic stop.

4 Sometimes I feel as though it's not enough police
5 to stop enough people to stop the violations. But it's not
6 so much as that. It's that I think they could do more better
7 about being awareness about how the charge gets going and the
8 time of day it is and, you know, rush hour. Different times,
9 different things, different people.

10 This is -- when it rains -- rain is just like snow.
11 You know, people going at speeds that they really don't
12 understand that if your car hydroplane, if you try to stop,
13 it's like black ice. But if you -- if no one is teaching
14 them or helping them with that -- who talks about the rain or
15 how fast you should go or how you should do this or how you
16 should do that? Nobody is putting out the road model like it
17 was back in the '60s and '70s and '80s. Not really talking
18 about my age, but I seen the times change through those
19 decades and how the officers address you.

20 You know, like coming down to just being two or
21 three people shot to be -- like she said, it should be none,
22 but you have to get to that part. And it's all about how you
23 address each other when the officers get out of the car and
24 how they address you and how they come about it, the
25 oversee -- the oversight boards and all that. We should have

1 that before it happen, not after, because most of these
2 things they talk about is after stuff has happened.

3 Let's try to be preventing. Everybody know the
4 problem. You know, where are the solutions? You know, I
5 don't hear a lot of things about solutions.

6 We talk about the oversight board and what they're
7 talking about. Are we coming together in unison to talk
8 about it to do something about it? Because it takes all of
9 us. It takes a village to raise -- to come together. So
10 there is no individual.

11 And what you're doing is a marvelous job. So just
12 start listening and bringing your attention to it. It
13 gives -- it gives time and credence to other people for
14 taking they time and listening to understand what's going on.

15 Because just talking is not going to get it. You
16 know, my grandmother taught me one thing. If you -- if your
17 feet don't fit your mouth, put your feet in it. If you don't
18 walk it, you shouldn't talk about it.

19 So it's just little common sense things that we
20 use. We don't have to go to no high-level measure of
21 conversation. It's common sense. It's paying attention.
22 Just knowing how to treat and talk to each other. And it
23 doesn't come to gun violence and things of that nature,
24 especially on a traffic stop.

25 So it's just how you feel when the officer is

1 behind you and you think you might be doing something wrong,
2 and you don't want to make a wrong turn. Just -- sometimes
3 just, like, over -- oversight and over-movement in a
4 situation of the emotion. It's all about how you feel and
5 how they talk to you and how you address each other.

6 Because I give the officers back what they give me,
7 and it's respect. I walked away from a lot of places and a
8 lot of things that other people don't, and I feel bad for
9 them. I can only pray for them and hope to keep going
10 forward.

11 But that's how I feel about the officers and what
12 they do. They're doing a great job. I just feel that
13 there's not enough of them putting enough time in with they
14 personality and emotions to take out of it. Sometimes you
15 say, did they get out on the wrong side of the bed? You
16 don't have that anymore. You get out on either side of the
17 bed. It's just how you end up getting out of the bed.
18 Putting your shoes on first and then brushing your teeth.
19 It's the same thing in the street.

20 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you very much, sir.
21 We appreciate those comments and your time this morning.

22 Is Hugo Carrillo ready to be heard?

23 (No response.)

24 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Maybe move on to No. 23,
25 Robert Schultz.

1 MR. SEPÚLVEDA: Your Honor, I believe Speaker 22 is
2 in the same room. They may just need some time to set up.

3 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: That's fine. Good.

4 (Brief pause.)

5 MR. LEVIN: Your Honor, in the Communities United
6 room we have Roxanne Smith ready to go in a moment. Is that
7 all right?

8 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Sure. We could take up
9 Roxanne Smith. I know she was really scheduled for a little
10 bit earlier, but we exchanged her. We can hear from her.

11 MS. SMITH: Good morning. And thank you, your
12 Honor.

13 My name is Roxanne Smith. I'm a black woman with
14 children from the Austin neighborhood. I'm also a leader
15 with Communities United and part of a coalition dedicated to
16 fighting for real change in policing.

17 My own family has experienced this firsthand police
18 brutality. My son, Seneca Smith, was shot six times by the
19 police in 2004. And although he survived, he was wrongfully
20 convicted of a crime he didn't commit.

21 Detective Wojcik, who led the investigation, was
22 the same detective involved in the case of 16-year-old Laquan
23 McDonald. We have records and multiple witnesses that can
24 attest to Seneca's innocence.

25 On that day, he was holding a 7-Up drink when a van

1 drove up and two police officers shot him multiple times.
2 The officers lied under oath, claiming they were the ones
3 shot with no witnesses to corroborate their stories. But
4 there was definitely some tampering with the evidence, and
5 the officers also lied under oath.

6 The young witnesses were interrogated for hours to
7 the point that one even contracted a urinary tract infection.
8 Also, another one was shot in his shoulder, and Seneca put
9 his body in front of them when they chased him to a building.
10 This is crazy.

11 So years later, as a leader of Communities United,
12 I continue to hear testimony from young people who are
13 stopped by police. We all heard Maya's testimony. The CPD
14 needs to listen to impacted leaders to make real change in
15 our communities in Chicago.

16 My son, Seneca, is still waiting for justice.

17 And just to put in something, I just lost a son,
18 but not because of the police. It was the one I used to talk
19 to you about, Roget Smith.

20 So Detective Wojcik, who was involved in the Laquan
21 McDonald case, also played a role in my son's case.

22 We need justice and real change in our black and
23 brown communities. We particularly, black and brown folks,
24 know the injustices that we face, your Honor, and we demand
25 that necessary changes be implemented. Our voices and lived

1 experiences must be heard and also be taken into
2 consideration.

3 And so, your Honor, I thank you for your time and
4 listening to me and hearing me.

5 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: I thank you, Ms. Smith.
6 Thank you very much for being with us this morning.

7 MS. SMITH: Thank you.

8 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: I think we can, then,
9 return to our schedule. And I believe that it's Mr. Carrillo
10 who is next, is that right, or Mr. Schultz? If Mr. Carrillo
11 is not available, Mr. Schultz.

12 MR. SEPÚLVEDA: Your Honor, I believe Mr. Carrillo
13 may be in the same room. But if they are getting adjusted, I
14 can add Mr. Schultz, Speaker No. 23.

15 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Sure. Great. We'll turn
16 to Mr. Schultz then.

17 Go ahead, sir.

18 (Brief pause.)

19 MR. SCHULTZ: Can you hear me now?

20 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Yes, we can.

21 MR. SCHULTZ: Okay. All right. Zoom was
22 interfering with the process here. I'm sorry.

23 Let me turn on my camera, Judge. One moment,
24 please.

25 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you.

1 MR. SCHULTZ: It's an honor to be here today,
2 Judge Pallmeyer, and share this testimony with you.

3 I am W. Robert Schultz III, the campaign organizer
4 at the Active Transportation Alliance, a 30-year-old advocacy
5 group promoting walking, biking, and public transportation
6 for a safer, more equitable, and sustainable Chicagoland.
7 Traffic safety is our number one issue.

8 I have resided in Chicago for 34 years and live in
9 Belmont Cragin.

10 I am here today because of serious concerns about
11 the consent decree's consideration of including traffic
12 stops.

13 I must say, as a citizen, I've been active on this
14 issue for 24 years. Back in 2004, when I worked for Amnesty
15 International, I helped organize a public hearing with
16 retired federal (audio interruption) on traffic stops in
17 Chicago and elsewhere in the country. And we published a
18 report in 2004 called *Threat and Humiliation* where we
19 underscored what my learning is, that traffic stops are an
20 ineffective tool for crime prevention. Traffic stops are
21 also an ineffective tool for traffic safety.

22 I am on the steering committee of the Free2Move
23 Coalition that has a three-point plan to address the problem
24 of traffic stops that disproportionately impact black and
25 brown drivers.

1 And traffic stops now outright limit stops for
2 low-level offenses, like broken headlights, that don't
3 present road safety dangers in suspicionless searches during
4 traffic stops. Active trends supports this policy because
5 the data supports the thesis that traffic stops do nothing to
6 improve traffic safety. There is an ongoing crisis of
7 pedestrian and traffic safety in Chicago that traffic stops
8 have failed to resolve. There are other tools that we can
9 employ.

10 Therefore, we support every effort to give the
11 Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability
12 Agency to have a role in how Chicago addresses traffic stops.

13 If traffic stops are incorporated wholesale into
14 the consent decree without consideration of CCPSA, an
15 important actor in the public safety conversations
16 representing the public will be left with a weakened
17 oversight tool.

18 The glacial speed of the consent decree process, as
19 evidenced by a 7 percent compliance rate five years into its
20 implementation, affirms the assessment of this pace. The
21 consent decree process is an inadequate tool to bring
22 everyday relief from the problems that cascade from
23 unfettered traffic stops.

24 The CCPSA must have a role in addressing traffic
25 stops. If traffic stops are incorporated wholesale into the

1 consent decree without consideration of the CCPSA, it cuts
2 out an important safety actor.

3 We believe all the agencies should cooperate, and
4 we believe that the traffic stops issue can be addressed with
5 greater speed and have a public policy when, if they're
6 excluded from the consent decree and the issue is resolved
7 through continued collaboration and support of all public
8 policy stakeholders where the voice of the community is
9 engaged through The Community Commission for Public Safety
10 and Accountability.

11 Thank you.

12 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, Mr. Schultz.

13 Is Mr. Carrillo with us at this point?

14 MR. SEPÚLVEDA: Your Honor, I don't believe so.

15 And -- but I -- and we may also be missing Speaker 23 -- I'm
16 sorry -- 24. We heard from 25. And so I believe Speaker 26
17 is with us.

18 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: All right. That would be
19 Darrell Dacres or Dacres. I'm not sure how to pronounce your
20 name.

21 MR. DACRES: Darrell Dacres.

22 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: You're welcome --
23 Mr. Dacres, you're welcome to get started, then, whenever
24 you're ready.

25 MR. DACRES: Thank you.

1 So my name is Darrell Dacres. I serve my community
2 as a violence prevention program manager in Uptown and Rogers
3 Park at ONE Northside organizing neighborhoods for equality;
4 also under the umbrella of CP4P, which does the work of
5 violence prevention where we provide resources to at-risk
6 youth, those likely to commit acts of violence or victims of
7 violence.

8 I also serve as an elected official as a
9 representative on the 20th District on CCPSA, Community
10 Commission for Public Safety and Accountability, which is
11 funny because we're talking about accountability.

12 In my tenure -- in my work in violence prevention,
13 most of my participants, including myself, has experienced
14 police brutality. We've experienced issues in the community
15 that has went unresolved.

16 I foster things like COPA. I foster the consent
17 decree to get the voice of the people heard. And since
18 they've been in play, they have not met satisfactorily to the
19 people. At a 7 percent success rate over the course of five
20 years, the amount of violence that has done to the community
21 is still unresolved.

22 I fought for the CCPSA to be able to hold
23 accountability. We fought to have policymaking powers over
24 issues that is not on the consent decree, that is not heard
25 or not being resolved under those issues.

1 And not just through my years of working with my
2 participants in my youth when the police knocked my tooth
3 out, as recently as two months ago, I was locked up by
4 mistaken identity, not recognized and not believing who I
5 was, and was arrested and sent to the county jail as an
6 elected official on a mistaken identity situation. Regular
7 pretextual stop. And if I'm an elected official and this
8 could happen to me, this could happen to anybody in the
9 community unresolved. The conditions in there guarantee
10 that -- they were -- they were just deplorable, at that.

11 That being said, you know, I want the voice of the
12 people heard. I'm not here to talk down the consent decree.
13 I fought to get it here. But when you're talking about
14 reform and oversight and the monitoring of policy, that's one
15 thing. I also fought for accountability for those things,
16 and that's a completely different thing.

17 I would hate for my life to be on the line for a
18 pretextual stop on the bottom half of a 7 percent success
19 rate because the people weren't given their rights of voice
20 to be heard.

21 As far as my role as a District Council member on a
22 nominated committee that just put the commission in, you
23 know, our -- this is a very new position for the City. So I
24 understand a lot of people may not understand how important
25 it is that we take accountability on this, and we have a

1 voice in this. But we fought for the people. We all were
2 elected as representations of the communities in which we
3 serve.

4 And I believe that issues as far as traffic stops
5 and in the community, we can -- we, as a District Council,
6 can resolve those issues. That was the point of putting our
7 entire program together. And the people vote for it, so we
8 should have their voices heard.

9 So I understand, like I said, we need oversight.
10 We need reform. But we're not just talking about the
11 monitoring, because before we fought for those things, it was
12 just undocumented and nobody cared.

13 Now that we know the numbers, we see that the CPD
14 is on the bottom half of the 7 percent compliance as far as
15 what the rest of the city's in compliance with. That's
16 disrespectful to the people, and our lives are worth more
17 than that.

18 So thank you for your time, your Honor.

19 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you very much,
20 Mr. Dacres.

21 Is Gregory Chambers with us?

22 MR. SEPÚLVEDA: Your Honor, I believe that he is.
23 He's just accepting the promotion.

24 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Okay.

25 (Brief pause.)

1 MR. SEPÚLVEDA: Your Honor, Speaker 27 is in the
2 panelist position, but that there --

3 MR. CHAMBERS: Can you hear me?

4 MR. SEPÚLVEDA: Yes.

5 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Yes, we can hear you.

6 MR. CHAMBERS: I'm sorry. I've been talking and
7 talking.

8 Anyway, my name is Greg Chambers, and I am part of
9 the Free2Move Coalition and --

10 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Yes.

11 MR. CHAMBERS: -- and also a director of policy for
12 the Illinois Coalition to End Permanent Punishments; and I'm
13 the Illinois delegate for the People's Coalition for Safety
14 and Freedom, which is moving to repeal and replace the 1994
15 crime bill, which led to mass incarceration and overpolicing
16 of black and brown streets.

17 Now, I want to say the consent decree was and is an
18 idealistic concept for reforming the Chicago Police
19 Department. However, bringing the Police Department into
20 compliance has proven to be complicated, at best.

21 Even under the watchful eye of the Independent
22 Monitoring Team and the federal court, the Police Department
23 appears to be unapologetically resistant to compliance.

24 As it stands to date, the Department is 93 percent
25 in noncompliance, which means they are only 7 percent in

1 compliance after more than five years in existence of the
2 consent decree.

3 Now, as a former police officer for the City of
4 Chicago, I have always believed the Department would be
5 adamantly resistant to this sort of change. The evidence is
6 visible in its dismal rate of compliance.

7 Now, I want to mention, Tom McMahon --
8 Officer McMahon, he said he's opposed -- he's opposed to --
9 he's opposed to traffic stops. He loves traffic stops. He
10 thinks traffic stops are a useful tool, but he supports
11 pretextual stops.

12 Now, acknowledging there is a problem with
13 pretextual traffic stops is a step in the right direction,
14 but when the consent decree has failed to compel the
15 Department to comply, what makes us believe that there will
16 be some come-to-Jesus moment where the Department will
17 miraculously comply with additional regulations?

18 Now, while we at Free2Move and the Illinois
19 Coalition to End Permanent Punishments believe that there's a
20 pathway that exists through legislative policymaking at the
21 local or state levels of government either by creating
22 ordinance or statute, we also believe The Community
23 Commission for Public Safety and Accountability and the
24 Independent Monitoring Team and the federal court will create
25 a pathway to affect the legislation by acknowledging the

1 existence of this often discriminatory and traumatizing
2 practice that results in arrests for criminal activity in
3 less than 2 percent of the time and the discovery of a
4 firearm less than 1 percent of the time during pretextual
5 traffic stops.

6 Now, I want to close by saying this. When officers
7 fire 96 or more rounds of ammunition in the direction of a
8 suspect emanating from a pretextual traffic stop for not
9 wearing a seat belt, those actions are tantamount to the
10 imposition of a death sentence without a court or jury.

11 Can we honestly say we are trying to apprehended
12 this suspect when we fired 96 projectiles?

13 Police cannot serve as judge, jury, and
14 executioner, or slave patrols in black and brown
15 neighborhoods. Let's end pretextual traffic stops.

16 Thank you for your time.

17 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, Mr. Chambers.

18 Our next scheduled speaker would be Billie Boxdale.

19 MS. BOXDALE: Happy Tuesday. My name is Billie
20 Boxdale.

21 Okay. I'm here today and questioning -- over
22 50-some years ago, I have been abused by the police
23 brutality -- by police, my family.

24 So I just want to say some things that happened a
25 couple months ago. I observed a young man being stopped by

1 the police -- surrounded by the police. So I stopped and got
2 out of my car. I said, "What's going on, Officer?" I said,
3 "What's wrong? Can I see what's going on?" because I could
4 see him.

5 They told me, "Get back in your car. Mind your own
6 business."

7 (Unintelligible). Because I happen to be a black
8 woman, 73 years old, a citizen, and I need to know what's
9 going on, because I pay tax to you-all. My dollar tax pay
10 for you-all.

11 So, anyway, as I approached and got back in the
12 car, they uncuffed the young man and they let him go.

13 So what I was saying is that, you know, this
14 happened over 57 years. The same thing is happening now. I
15 observed this 57 years ago, and it's still going on.

16 So my question, (unintelligible) officers of the
17 CPD be accountable, the courts to call them to do whatever is
18 necessary to get them off the streets, the ones that are not
19 doing what they are supposed to do.

20 And that's my comments.

21 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Ms. Boxdale, thank you very
22 much for those comments.

23 Our last scheduled speaker is Rosa Reyes, who I
24 believe will also be speaking to us through an interpreter;
25 is that right?

1 MR. LEVIN: Yes, your Honor.

2 If you could just give us a moment?

3 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Of course. Sure. No
4 hurry. That's fine.

5 (Brief pause.)

6 MR. LEVIN: Your Honor, Ms. Reyes is actually going
7 to testify in English, so we won't need the interpreter.

8 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Wonderful. Thank you.
9 That's great.

10 Ms. Reyes, whenever you're ready, you're welcome to
11 get started.

12 MS. REYES: Okay. Good morning, your Honor.

13 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Good morning.

14 MS. REYES: My name is Rosa Reyes, and I am a
15 Mexican mother of two young -- two young wonderful teenagers.

16 As the leader of Communities United, which is part
17 of the coalition, I have faced many struggles through my
18 life, but I have reached a point where I said enough. Enough
19 of this injustice and enough of being mistreated. I now
20 advocate not only for myself but for everyone around me.

21 I am here today to share with you a traumatic
22 experience that my youngest son encountered when he was just
23 11 years old at that time.

24 He was subjected to outrageous and injustice
25 incident by the Chicago police, and I also blame the staff at

1 his junior high school as well for allowing this to happen.

2 One day my son took a gold electric lighter to
3 school to show off. Thankfully, a close friend of mine from
4 school informed me of what transpired. I dropped everything
5 and rushed to school.

6 When I arrived, a police officer was already
7 questioning him, my 11-year-old son, without my permission,
8 without a parent present. All his rights were violated.

9 The officer accused him of bringing a Taser gun to
10 school. I demanded to see the evidence. When the officer
11 took out the lighter from his front pocket without an
12 evidence tag, I was in shock to see that it was my husband's
13 gold lighter, not a Taser gun.

14 I asked, "How is this possible?" If that item was
15 a so-called weapon, then why wasn't it inside an evidence
16 bag?

17 As the officer kept on stating that my son brought
18 a Taser gun, I furiously demanded him to retract himself,
19 because it was a gold lighter, not a Taser gun. The police
20 officer mentioned that it was considered a weapon.

21 Therefore, the school staff also stated that he had all the
22 characteristics of a psychopath.

23 They taking him -- to take him into custody or
24 Hartgrove Behavioral Hospital. Despite the officer's
25 wrongful accusation, we complied with him, and my son was

1 taken to Hartgrove Behavioral Hospital, where he was accepted
2 by a doctor who confirmed and provided with paperwork stating
3 that my son didn't meet the criteria for inpatient or partial
4 hospitalization as a Chicago police officer falsely claimed.

5 The police department never follow-up with a court
6 date or to return the electric lighter or even an apology for
7 the false accusation.

8 To this day, I don't know the police officer's name
9 or the case number on the report, if there was any police
10 report.

11 This is just one of the -- one example of how the
12 police use offensive language and intimidation tactics
13 against our young people. This must stop.

14 We demand justice and accountability to protect our
15 children, our young people regardless of their color or
16 ethnicity in a community, from the abuse of power.

17 Please take this statement into consideration when
18 modifying or updating policies that impact our young Hispanic
19 youth.

20 Thank you, your Honor.

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

23 Do we have any of the people who were not with us
24 earlier, who may have made an appearance? That would be
25 Dorothy Holmes or -- I think there were three in the

1 middle -- Ms. Erin White, Sandra Wortham, or Elijah Hudson.
2 Any of those individuals would like to be heard?

3 MR. SEPÚLVEDA: Yes, Your Honor. We --

4 MS. HICKEY: Your Honor -- go ahead.

5 MR. SEPÚLVEDA: We have two here present.

6 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: All right. Great.

7 MS. HICKEY: Who do we have present? I think we
8 perhaps have No. 22.

9 MR. SEPÚLVEDA: Yes, and 18. I just promoted --
10 asked to promote Speaker 18.

11 MS. HICKEY: Okay.

12 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Great. Elijah Hudson then.

13 Thank you.

14 (Brief pause.)

15 MR. SEPÚLVEDA: Speaker 18 declined to be promoted.
16 I've asked them to unmute, and they can speak if they're able
17 to do so.

18 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Okay.

19 (Brief pause.)

20 MS. HICKEY: We do see No. 18. Perhaps if they do
21 not wish to speak, that is completely fine, and we can move
22 to No. 22.

23 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: 22.

24 MS. HICKEY: If 18 wishes to raise their hand if
25 they're having technical difficulties, we could try to figure

1 it out. But why don't we just go to 22.

2 MR. RAMON: Yes. Can you hear me?

3 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Yes, we can.

4 MR. RAMON: Hi. (Audio interruption). I'm at
5 work. I'm a (unintelligible) citizen. I'm really concerned.
6 And thank to everybody to take this time.

7 I live on the West Side of Chicago. I am an
8 immigrant also, like some people that came up on the
9 panelist.

10 And I can sit down and talk about or complain about
11 a lot of different things, but I want to -- I want to point
12 out a few things.

13 So a lot of opportunity working with the
14 11th District Police Department, 25 District. And during the
15 time I take -- I took a class to take community policing.
16 When I learned what the officers are going through and the
17 everyday thing and the training that they take, how their
18 body reacts to, like, the traffic stop that people mention.
19 Nobody mentioned did the person have a gun on it, you know.
20 So these people, without the uniform, are the same as me and
21 everybody else. They're putting their life in danger every
22 single day for all of us.

23 And I think also they are talking about kids --
24 young kids. Nowadays, we have people -- little kids,
25 actually -- ten years old, 11 years old -- with a gun doing

1 things they're not supposed to -- carjacking, shooting at
2 other people. They need to stop, yes. Now, how we can
3 prevent that? Obviously, there's different programs to stop
4 that. I don't want to talk about it.

5 My point is here, traffic stops. What we can
6 prevent for a traffic stop?

7 Like one of the officers that was retired already
8 for the 5th District -- 86th or 7th, somewhere around there,
9 he say he work. When you do a traffic stop, yes, traffic
10 will show down. If you are not wearing your seat belt, you
11 are wearing your seat belt. Now you are wearing your seat
12 belt because you don't want to get a ticket. Every time you
13 get a ticket, you get mad. So everything start there.

14 When you get a pull over and you get a ticket
15 because you don't have your seat belt on, then you get mad
16 because now you're hit in your pocket where it hurts. The
17 money, right? It's not about the money. It's about being
18 safe -- for you to go home safe to your family, and not only
19 for you, but to everybody else. This is the panel of safety
20 seat belt.

21 Also during a traffic stop, you putting away guns
22 that you find in vehicles. You find drugs and some other
23 things. So traffic stops help a lot in that community.

24 I have personally been pulled over several times,
25 not only one time. It's not because I'm -- my color of skin.

1 It's just a regular traffic stop.

2 If you've got nothing to hide -- like is said --
3 like your father and your mother told you, if you have
4 nothing to hide, you don't need to worry about it. And if
5 you present with respect to the officers, they should give
6 respect to you also the same way. But if you give an
7 attitude, this is when everything escalate to everything
8 else, and then people getting shot and then the people go
9 crazy.

10 So -- but yes, I'm all for traffic stop. They
11 reduce violence in the community because the police are
12 present for a longer time. They're not just driving by.
13 They're stopping a vehicle for whatever the reason is, but
14 now everyone around it is looking out.

15 One example I'm going to use for this past weekend.
16 Like I said, I live on the West Side. So we have our
17 Puerto Rican party or whatever on North Avenue. And during
18 the time I noticed that it was a lot of traffic stop or a lot
19 of vehicles acting crazy. They're revving engines. They're
20 burning tires, stuff like that. There's a lot of kids
21 around. So it was a lot of traffic stops.

22 After the traffic stops -- after I see that a lot
23 of people are getting pulled over, the traffic stops were a
24 lot. That means they see the lights of the squad. And now
25 they're slowing down. Now they're putting on seat belts.

1 Now people are going inside the vehicles, you know. And they
2 start -- they kind of -- they stay away from the area because
3 they know they get a chance of getting pulled over.

4 But if you got nothing on you -- no guns, no drugs,
5 no nothing -- if the police pull you over, it's compliance,
6 and it should be fine. You should not have a ticket or
7 anything on it.

8 And I can go on and on and on, but I know the time
9 is limited. So I have the community policing course. I also
10 support advocates for the 11th District. And the only thing
11 I can say is traffic stops help us dramatically.

12 That's it. I'll make it short and to the point.

13 And for the people talking about this --
14 unfortunately, the people that passed away because of 97
15 shots, please do some homework. The person had a gun, and
16 obviously it was not legal.

17 Thank you.

18 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you very much.

19 That was Mr. Carrillo, correct?

20 MR. RAMON: Hugo Ramon, H-u --

21 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Oh, I'm sorry. Okay.

22 Thanks.

23 Do we have one more speaker with us this afternoon?

24 MS. HICKEY: Your Honor, we have one hand raised of
25 Jasmine Smith. I know that we're a bit over time. But if we

1 could call on Ms. Smith and keep to the three minutes?

2 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Sure.

3 I'd be happy to hear from you, Ms. Smith. Go right
4 ahead.

5 MS. SMITH: Your Honor, (audio interruption). I
6 appreciate it.

7 This is Jasmine Smith from Chicago Alliance Against
8 Racist and Political Repression.

9 I did have a chance to speak earlier, so I'm not
10 going to make it seem like I didn't have a chance.

11 But a quick thing (audio interruption). A lot of
12 speakers are speaking about, you know, the pretextual stops,
13 that we need it.

14 It's a difference between traffic stops and
15 pretextual stops. And I just want, you know, people to
16 understand that we're saying we don't need pretextual stops.
17 That means before you get pulled over for minor situations.
18 We're not speaking about when you get pulled over and it's a
19 minor situation and you have all of your credentials.

20 The thing is, again, just the victims don't lie,
21 your Honor. And I'm just hoping that you guys work it out
22 and that CCPSA handle the situation and it not go to the
23 consent decree. It's a slow (audio interruption).

24 MS. HICKEY: Your Honor, unfortunately, I think she
25 had a bad connection and was disconnected, but I do believe

1 she did have a chance to speak earlier, and there will also
2 be an opportunity for written comments.

3 I think that that is everyone that was planned for
4 the morning session. And if you would like to adjourn, and
5 then we will reconvene actually in person in your courtroom
6 this afternoon.

7 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: That's right.

8 I want to thank everybody who's still with us for
9 the comments that you've made. I think you've all given us
10 much to think about.

11 And we will be resuming this afternoon with an
12 in-person hearing here in my courtroom on the 25th floor of
13 the Dirksen courthouse. That will begin right at 1:30.

14 And after just a moment of call to order, we'll go
15 right into the statements from the citizens who are scheduled
16 to speak this afternoon. We're going to ask them again to
17 keep their comments as brief as possible, because there are a
18 large number of individuals who would like to be heard.

19 All right. Thank you, everyone. I'll see many of
20 you in person in about an hour.

21 MS. HICKEY: Thank you, your Honor.

22 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you.

23 MR. PUTNEY: Thank you, your Honor.

24 (A recess was taken at 12:40 p.m.)F/1
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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION

STATE OF ILLINOIS,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	Docket No. 17 C 6260
)	
vs.)	
)	
CITY OF CHICAGO,)	Chicago, Illinois
)	June 11, 2024
Defendant.)	1:30 p.m.

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS - Public Hearing
BEFORE THE HONORABLE CHIEF JUDGE REBECCA R. PALLMEYER

APPEARANCES:

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BY: MS. MARY J. GRIEB
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1 APPEARANCES (Continued:)

2

3 Also Present: Superintendent Larry Snelling

4 Deputy Mayor of Community Safety Garien Gatewood

5 Asst. Deputy Mayor of Community Safety
6 Natashee Scott

7

8 Chief Angel Novalez

9

10 Lieutenant Jack Benigno

11

12 Sergeant Thomas Stoyias

13

14 General Counsel Scott Spears

15

16 Joseph Hoereth, Ph.D

17

18 Dr. Ramos

19

20 Dr. Canard

21

22

23

24

25

22 Court Reporter:

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1 (The following proceedings were had in open court:)

2 THE CLERK: 17 CV 6260, State of Illinois versus
3 The City of Chicago for public hearing.

4 Please be seated.

5 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Good afternoon, everyone,
6 and thank you for joining us for our public hearing this
7 afternoon with respect to the consent decree and the issue of
8 traffic stops and whether they should be included in the
9 consent decree provisions.

10 We heard opening statements this morning on our
11 virtual -- the virtual version of this hearing.

12 This hearing is, obviously, in person, but I want
13 to ask, nevertheless, that the lawyers and the parties
14 introduce themselves.

15 We can begin with the State.

16 MS. BASS EHLER: Good afternoon, your Honor.

17 Karyn Bass Ehler on behalf of the State. We have
18 several members of our team here as well. If they could go
19 around --

20 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Sure.

21 MS. BASS EHLER: -- to introduce themselves to the
22 Court?

23 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Yes.

24 MR. LOWRY: Good afternoon, your Honor.

25 William Lowry for the State.

1 MS. PANNELLA: Good afternoon.

2 Katherine Pannella on behalf of the State of

3 Illinois.

4 MS. GRIEB: Good afternoon.

5 Mary Grieb on behalf of the State.

6 MR. WELLS: Good afternoon.

7 Christopher Wells also on behalf of the State.

8 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Okay. Good afternoon.

9 And for the City.

10 MS. BAGBY: Good afternoon, your Honor.

11 Jennifer Bagby, Deputy Corporation Counsel, along
12 with Allan Slagel on behalf of the City.

13 And with us this afternoon we have
14 Superintendent Larry Snelling. We have Deputy Mayor For
15 Community Safety Garien Gatewood. We have Assistant Deputy
16 Mayor For Community Safety Natashee Scott. And we have
17 Chief Angel Novalez from the Chicago Police Department
18 Constitutional Policing and Reform. We have Lieutenant Jack
19 Benigno from the training and support group. We have
20 Sergeant Tom Stoyias from research and development. And we
21 have General Counsel Scott Spears.

22 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Great. Well, thank you all
23 for being with us.

24 And I know we have members of the Monitoring Team.
25 And perhaps you could introduce yourselves as well.

1 MS. HICKEY: Good afternoon, your Honor.

2 For efficiency, I'll -- my name is Maggie Hickey.
3 I'm the independent monitor. I have with us Anthony-Ray
4 Sepúlveda, Meredith DeCarlo, Stella Oyalabu, who all work
5 with me at the law firm of Arentfox Schiff.

6 And then I have our Community Engagement Team: The
7 project manager, Dr. Ramos; Dr. Hoereth; and Dr. Canard.

8 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Wonderful. Thank you all
9 for being here as well.

10 And, of course, the most important members --
11 people that are with us this afternoon -- are the members of
12 the public, who -- many of whom have signed up for an
13 opportunity to be heard.

14 We have a large number of people. I do want to
15 hear everybody that has signed up. I don't want to skip over
16 anybody, so I'm going to ask all of you to be just as brief
17 as we can be.

18 I think we originally thought you would have about
19 five minutes each. It's going to be closer to three, just to
20 make sure that we do get to hear everyone who's scheduled to
21 be heard. We may get a little bit of time at the end. If
22 that happens, I'll certainly let you know.

23 But what I'd like to do right now is just begin
24 right away with Speaker No. 30, and that's Patricia Carrillo.

25 So if you're with us, Ms. Carrillo, you're welcome

1 to step up and make a statement.

2 And it's easier for my court reporter if you -- hi.
3 It's easier for my court reporter if you come use the
4 microphone.

5 Ms. Carillo is not here?

6 (No response.)

7 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Well, I'll recall anybody
8 who doesn't show up right at the beginning. We'll see if we
9 can get everybody in.

10 Is Brianna Hill with us? Great.

11 Ms. Hill, if you could step forward. And, again,
12 if you don't mind, it helps my court reporter if you use
13 the microphone.

14 MS. HILL: Good afternoon, Judge.

15 I'm Brianna Hill. I am a staff attorney in the
16 Special Education Clinic at Equip for Equality.

17 Equip for Equality is a nonprofit organization that
18 serves as the federally mandated protection advocacy agency
19 for Illinois.

20 In my role specifically, I represent youth with
21 disabilities and their families to get appropriate supports
22 and services in school.

23 Most of the youth I represent also have some form
24 of court involvement, and many have had police interactions
25 in their young lives.

1 For our clients, these interactions often cause
2 significant harm, both physical and mental, and interferes
3 with their progress in and out of school.

4 Just within the past year we saw one of the worst
5 cases of police violence toward a youth we work with.

6 I'm here today because this consent decree was
7 supposed to make sure that this kind of police violence would
8 not happen to kids, but our teenage client had to be
9 hospitalized when he was arrested. He was tased multiple
10 times, had lacerations and bruising to his face, and
11 sustained injuries to his arm and leg.

12 This client already had a mental health disability,
13 and now he suffers the mental and physical consequences of
14 this interaction.

15 Interactions such as this one and countless others
16 can only be prevented by intentional, meaningful change in
17 both the policies and training of the Chicago Police
18 Department.

19 In January of 2024, the CPD finally updated their
20 policy on interactions with youth and children per the
21 consent decree. However, this policy is still significantly
22 lacking in many areas.

23 First, and arguably most importantly, the policy
24 was created without meaningful input from impacted
25 communities. Without community feedback on what the actual

1 issues are with youth interactions and the police, the cycle
2 of police misconduct and community mistrust of the police
3 will only continue.

4 The policy does not go far enough to keep youth out
5 of the criminal legal system and does not explicitly say that
6 the default for all youth should be diversion away from the
7 criminal legal system. There needs to be a framework within
8 this policy for diverting youth away from the system that
9 includes -- it includes constraints on officers'
10 decision-making and discretion. Arrests should be a last
11 resort for extraordinary circumstances.

12 Additionally, there should be an explicit
13 prohibition on handcuffing youth unless all other
14 deescalation techniques to prevent the need for handcuffs
15 have been used. There should also be an age cutoff for using
16 handcuffs on younger children, as this experience can be
17 extremely traumatizing for younger ones.

18 Finally, the youth and crisis section of the policy
19 is glaringly inadequate. It does not require that officers
20 immediately call for mental health assistance, nor does it
21 explicitly state that the officers' primary responsibility in
22 a situation with a youth in crisis is to ensure the youth
23 receives mental health treatment, not law enforcement, in
24 that moment.

25 The policy also lists indicators of a mental health

1 crisis. However, these indicators are copied and pasted from
2 the mental health crisis policy for adults. Youth and adults
3 manifest mental health symptoms extremely differently, and
4 officers should be taught the differences in how to recognize
5 that crises in youth are distinct from crises in adults.

6 Everyone here desires a safe and thriving city.
7 The police department, as an institution, has actively worked
8 against that goal, and the consent decree is only the first
9 step of many to right the wrongs and repair the harm done.

10 However, there is still significant work to be
11 done. Our hope is that by hearing from the community today,
12 your Honor will push the department to work even harder to
13 improve and repair the damage they have done so that the City
14 and its youth will be safer.

15 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you very much,
16 Ms. Hill.

17 Is Kyle Lucas with us and ready to speak?

18 Good afternoon, Mr. Lucas. You're welcome to step
19 up.

20 MR. LUCAS: Good afternoon, your Honor. Thank you
21 so much for the opportunity to speak today.

22 I'm Kyle Lucas. I am one of the cofounders of an
23 organization called Better Streets Chicago. We're a
24 grassroots organization that are fighting for safe streets
25 for all Chicagoans who walk, roll, bike, and take transit, as

1 well as those who drive.

2 And we're a member of the Free2Move Coalition. We
3 are a coalition who are pushing against pretextual traffic
4 stops because we know that they are inherently not about
5 traffic safety, but they are a form of stop and frisk.

6 I am a victim of traffic violence. I've been hit
7 multiple times in the last six months myself. Two of those
8 times I called 911, and the police did not show up.

9 Last summer, I heard a crash outside of my window
10 at my apartment one night. I rushed outside alongside a
11 neighbor, found a family who had just been hit in a
12 hit-and-run in a vehicle. It was a mother who was pregnant,
13 who was driving with her five children. And I called -- we
14 called 911. The police never came.

15 Paramedics finally showed up, took the mother to
16 the hospital. And the father ran around trying to act as
17 detective in order to try and find any evidence in the
18 absence of law enforcement.

19 This is just a couple of examples of where there
20 are actual instances of traffic violence and police failed to
21 respond and be there at the time where people are facing a
22 crisis.

23 But we know that that is not the experience that
24 black and brown Chicagoans have across this city. In fact,
25 there is often police intervention in their lives when there

1 is no reason for there to be. This is not because of traffic
2 safety. It is in search of something that people think
3 that -- that officers think is there. And this is having a
4 negative impact on people's lives. It's creating instances
5 in which people get shot and killed, like Dexter Reed.

6 And so we are here today to ask the Chicago Police
7 Department to make the policy change that they can do today
8 to end pretextual traffic stops.

9 I understand that the intent isn't to include this
10 in the consent decree. We have significant concerns about
11 this because the consent decree, as we all know, has been
12 slow to be implemented and has really not seen the change
13 that we desperately need in our law enforcement system.

14 But this is a change that can be made today, just
15 as stop and frisk was ended many years ago, and then this
16 came and the rise of the end of that. The Chicago Police
17 Department can make this policy change today, whether or not
18 it's in the consent decree.

19 And so we're here today to ask that any action
20 that's taken on this is done with a public and transparent
21 process that includes real community input and that ensures
22 that this policy gets ended because it is not creating
23 safety.

24 Thank you.

25 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, sir.

1 The next speaker that's scheduled to be heard this
2 afternoon is Derrick Hardaway.

3 Mr. Hardaway, if you're with us, you're welcome to
4 step up.

5 (No response.)

6 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: All right. I'll make a
7 note to recall Mr. Hardaway in a little while.

8 Alees Edwards.

9 (No response.)

10 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Okay. Same. I'm going to
11 be calling -- recalling the names of those individuals who
12 aren't here.

13 Is it Chiimeh Dowdell? Yes. Do you want to step
14 up. Go ahead, sir.

15 MR. CHIIMEH: Good afternoon.

16 My name is CMD Chiimeh, and I'm an organizer with
17 the Southsiders Organized for Unity and Liberation, also
18 known as SOUL.

19 SOUL is a proud member of the Free2Move Coalition,
20 here to declare our belief that pretextual traffic stops have
21 no place -- no place within the consent decree.

22 We vehemently assert that the current consent
23 decree falls short in making necessary changes in how traffic
24 stops are conducted.

25 With as many obligations to various important

1 policing matters, the consent decree neglects to give traffic
2 stops the attention they demand.

3 The consent decree was enacted over five years ago,
4 and to date, we have seen minimal progress. It is evident
5 that the current approach is ineffective and insufficient.

6 The issues surrounding pretextual traffic stops
7 need to be addressed now, and it has been proven the consent
8 decree is incapable of doing that.

9 This is why we insist that, instead, the Chicago
10 Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability
11 take charge of formulating policies regarding police traffic
12 stops.

13 Putting this issue in the consent decree would
14 hinder CCPSA from fulfilling this critical responsibility as
15 a community's oversight on public safety and would only
16 continue to perpetuate overpolicing, degrade community trust,
17 perpetuate racial disparities, and squander valuable
18 resources associated with CPD's handling of traffic stops.

19 We declare that any effective policy implemented by
20 CCPS to end these cases of racially biased traffic stops must
21 include Free2Move's three-part policy proposal.

22 Our right in pretextual traffic stops limits stops
23 for specific low-level offenses and end suspicionless
24 searches during traffic stops altogether.

25 The CCPS requires unwavering support and

1 collaboration from all stakeholders in Chicago's public
2 safety sector to tackle these issues in a manner that's
3 driven by the community and rigorously enforced, which is why
4 it is -- it is the appropriate body to address this issue.

5 Thank you for your attention and thank you for your
6 time.

7 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, very much,
8 Mr. Chiimeh.

9 John Robak is next.

10 Mr. Robak, are you here?

11 (No response.)

12 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Maurice Woodard.

13 Sir, you want to step up.

14 MR. WOODARD: Hello. Thanks for having me today.

15 My name is Maurice Woodard. I'm organized with
16 Equity and Transformation. We, as well, are proud members of
17 the Free2Move Coalition, and we are here on behalf of
18 pretextual traffic stops. We believe they have no place in
19 our community.

20 As you'll hear from other people who are speaking
21 on this, a lot of our work at Equity and Transformation is
22 being in community with people. And when talking to our
23 people who we serve in underresourced communities, formerly
24 incarcerated people, pretextual traffic stops was something
25 that hit home with everyone.

1 I can't tell you the amount of people who have felt
2 they have been stopped for minuscule reasons in order for the
3 police to pull them out of their car to take advantage of
4 them in ways that are similar to stop and frisk, but it's
5 just happening behind the wheel.

6 We strongly believe that miniature things that
7 aren't putting people in danger while they're driving, like a
8 sticker missing, an expired plate or something of the sorts
9 that aren't putting people's lives at harm, isn't --
10 shouldn't be a reason to pull someone over and put them in an
11 interaction that may cost them their lives, as many of us
12 have known dealing with the police.

13 We also believe strongly that putting pretextual
14 traffic stops into the consent decree strongly X's out the
15 public opinions and the community's voice in this issue. And
16 if the City wants to better relations between communities and
17 policing, this is not the way to go. It will X out the
18 community's voice and also cut out the CCPSA's chance to have
19 a stake in this with community input.

20 So we think it's very strongly that any policy
21 moving forward -- and I will repeat the three-part policy
22 that the Free2Move Coalition is pushing, and that is to
23 outright end pretextual traffic stops; limit stops to
24 specific low-level offenses, like a single broken headlight
25 or expired registration; and end suspicionless searches

1 during traffic stops.

2 We believe this is something that is crucial to
3 staying in the community and having their presence and
4 shouldn't be taken to closed doors and closed-doors decisions
5 that have led to harm in our communities in the past.

6 Thank you for your time.

7 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, Mr. Woodard.

8 I'm going to back up now and just see whether any
9 of the individuals that we've called already have maybe made
10 their way in.

11 Patricia Carrillo. You're here? If you would like
12 to step forward and make a statement, you're welcome to do
13 that now, Ms. Carillo.

14 MS. CARILLO: Hello, your Honor. I'm late. I'm
15 sorry, everybody.

16 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: No problem.

17 MS. CARILLO: With all respect, I just want to say
18 something very short.

19 And I agree with the stop traffic because in our
20 community -- I'm from West Humboldt Park. And I agree with
21 the stop traffic because we're suffering too much crime right
22 now with selling drugs and everything.

23 And we, as a community, we feel safer if we have a
24 lot of traffic stops, because most of the people who are in
25 our community have guns and drugs and everything. And this

1 is why we agree with traffic stops in our community.

2 And I respect everybody's opinion.

3 Thank you.

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

5 Let me just check on Derrick Hardaway or Alees
6 Edwards, if either of you are here, you're welcome to step
7 up.

8 (No response.)

9 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: All right. We'll recall.

10 And, Mr. John Robak, is he with us, by any chance,
11 now?

12 (No response.)

13 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: All right. Again, I'm
14 going to recall these people and make sure everyone who is
15 here gets a chance.

16 Is Dr. Jeffrey Dillard here? Great. Sir, you're
17 welcome to step forward and make a statement.

18 MR. DILLARD: Good afternoon, your Honor.

19 I'm Dr. Jeff Dillard. I teach criminal justice
20 full-time at City Colleges.

21 I'm an attorney. And I'm also a member of the
22 Community Policing Advisory Panel, CPAP, where we are charged
23 with developing recommendations for CPD's renewed community
24 engagement, as well as to help to ensure that those
25 recommendations are carried out.

1 Now, I'm sure that there will be -- we've already
2 heard many comments and recommendations made today concerning
3 very specific areas, including checkpoints and consent
4 searches and safety, to name a few.

5 However, my recommendation today encompasses all
6 recommendations, and that recommendation is that whatever
7 procedures are adopted, there must be intentional, thorough,
8 open, and honest transparency towards the community.

9 Phrases like "shroud of secrecy," "spin," or
10 "need-to-know basis" should not be a part of this endeavor.

11 New policies should be transparent, training should
12 be transparent, and implementation should be transparent.

13 In order to ensure transparency, adopted procedures
14 should be placed on, for example, CPD website, social media,
15 newsletters, press conferences, press releases, and all
16 appropriate means of communicating with the community.

17 True transparency helps to break down the dividing
18 walls of distrust and build an infrastructure where there is
19 genuine community and law enforcement partnership.

20 Thank you.

21 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, sir.

22 Is Anthony Driver with us? Sir, you're welcome to
23 step forward.

24 MR. DRIVER: Good afternoon, Judge.

25 I am Anthony Driver, Jr. I'm the current interim

1 president of the Community Commission for Public Safety and
2 Accountability and also a recently reappointed commissioner
3 in which that term is set to start on the 21st of this month.

4 In 2021, the City Council voted to create a new
5 system with new district councils whose members are elected
6 in each the City's 22 police districts and the citywide
7 Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability
8 whose members are nominated by district council members,
9 selected by the mayor, and confirmed by the City Council.

10 We are the six people recently confirmed by the
11 City Council to serve on the commission, and our appointments
12 will take effect on the 23rd of this month.

13 Under the ordinance of creating a community
14 Commission for Public Safety and Accountability, one of the
15 commission's key powers is to work collaboratively with the
16 Chicago Police Department on department policy. The
17 commission would either draft or review policy drafted by
18 CPD.

19 CPD and the commission work together to review and
20 revise drafts and to try to reach an agreement. All new or
21 revised CPD general orders only go into effect after they
22 have been approved by the commission. However, because the
23 consent decree was created before the commission came into
24 existence, CPD's policies covered by the consent decree are
25 outside of the commission's policymaking jurisdiction.

1 If traffic stops are incorporated in the consent
2 decree, the commission will lose that authority it currently
3 has to set policies that will govern traffic stops.

4 The commission should retain its ability to set
5 policy. That policymaking work should be carried out in
6 collaboration with CPD, the Independent Monitoring Team, and
7 the Office of the Attorney General.

8 Just as the commission is not required by law to
9 work collaboratively with the department, we are confident
10 the commission, CPD, the independent monitor, and the
11 Attorney General can work together and reach agreement about
12 a collaborative process with clearly defined roles for each
13 party which serves the commission's role with a vote on
14 policy.

15 And this statement is on behalf of all six of the
16 newly appointed permanent commission -- Community Commission
17 for Public Safety and Accountability.

18 Thank you.

19 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Well, congratulations on
20 your renewed appointment. It's a renewal, right?

21 MR. DRIVER: Yes.

22 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, sir.

23 MR. DRIVER: Thank you.

24 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: And Chad Ward. Chad Ward
25 is with us? No.

1 How about Charles Grevious?

2 (No response.)

3 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: I know we are running a
4 little ahead of schedule. Perhaps that's why some of these
5 people aren't here yet.

6 Joi Imobhio. Wonderful. Thank you. Good
7 afternoon.

8 MS. IMOBHIO: Good afternoon, your Honor, and my
9 fellow Chicagoans.

10 My name is Joi Imobhio, and I'm representing Impact
11 for Equity as its policy strategist.

12 Impact for Equity is a member of the Free2Move
13 Coalition. And since 2021, Impact for Equity and the
14 Free2Move Coalition have worked to eradicate pretextual
15 traffic stops in the city of Chicago.

16 As we all know, CPD makes excessive traffic stops
17 that disproportionately target black Chicagoans, who time and
18 time again bear the trauma of unjust policing.

19 Yet, this widespread traffic stopping for strategy
20 does not produce public safety; but rather, leaves our
21 communities feeling targeted rather than protected.

22 Impact for Equity, along with the Free2Move
23 Coalition, have developed three recommendations to
24 specifically address the problem of pretextual traffic stops
25 in Chicago based on reforms made in other cities and states

1 as well as our own experiences and priorities of those
2 directly impacted.

3 First, we should limit stops for low-level traffic
4 offenses that stops cannot be made solely for minor traffic
5 violations that have little impact on roadway safety.

6 In Chicago, relatively few traffic stops are made
7 for dangerous driving behaviors, like speeding or driving
8 under the influence, while hundreds of thousands of stops are
9 made for having improperly displayed or expired registration
10 plates and tags.

11 Second, officers should be prohibited from making
12 pretextual stops; that is, stopping a vehicle for a traffic
13 violation where their primary incentive is to conduct a
14 suspiciousless investigation for unrelated criminal activity.

15 Under this policy, officers would be free to stop
16 vehicles for violations that raise legitimate road rage
17 safety concerns or when they have reasonable suspicion or
18 probable cause of a nontraffic crime.

19 Finally, one of these instances for police to
20 conduct suspiciousless stops is to ask drivers for consent to
21 search their vehicles even though these interactions raise
22 concerns about whether drivers feel free to decline those
23 requests.

24 Officers should be barred from asking to search a
25 person or their vehicle during a stop or a traffic violation

1 unless the officer has some other legal basis to search under
2 the Fourth Amendment.

3 With these changes, we expect to see a reduction in
4 the use of pretextual traffic stops leading to fewer harmful
5 interactions between Chicagoans and police as well as a
6 reduction in racial disparities in policing.

7 As a result, police officer time could be allocated
8 to issues communities care about, like regulating dangerous
9 driving behaviors, responding to emergencies, resolving
10 criminal investigations, and getting to know the communities
11 in which they serve.

12 We appreciate the Independent Monitoring Team and
13 the Attorney General's office for taking proactive steps to
14 address pretextual traffic stops. We believe that there is
15 genuine interest here in reforming this harmful practice.

16 However, we do have concerns about the consent
17 decree as a vehicle for change. We are concerned about the
18 ability of the consent decree to move with urgency. The
19 consent decree has yet to live up to its purpose to bind the
20 Chicago Police Department to perform constitutional and
21 effective policing with over 700 provisions at a 7 percent
22 compliance rate.

23 There are hundreds of CPD provisions already
24 included in this decree that we also believe are urgent and
25 in need of immediate attention.

1 We fear that including traffic stops into the
2 consent decree alone will remain stagnant, and our
3 communities cannot afford that luxury of time.

4 We also have concerns with the lack of
5 opportunities for the consent decree to incorporate
6 meaningful community engagement. We fear that without
7 increased accountability to the community, the policy born
8 from this consent decree will lack the transformative policy
9 needed to effectively dismantle this perverse policing
10 practice.

11 As a result, we believe that the legal tools for
12 addressing this problem should include The Community
13 Commission for Public Safety and Accountability.

14 The commission was created to serve the community;
15 and by ordinance, they are granted the power to implement
16 policy.

17 The consent decree is the one tool in our arsenal,
18 and we must explore every avenue to bring about the urgent
19 change our communities deserve.

20 We urge stakeholders to collaborate and hold each
21 other accountable to implement policy that is comprehensive
22 enough to end CPD's traffic stop and frisk practice. This
23 must be done swiftly and decisively with active partnership
24 from community members. Chicagoans cannot wait any longer.

25 Thank you for your time and your commitment to

1 urgently end pretextual traffic stops.

2 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you.

3 All right. Our next scheduled speaker is Carmen
4 Santiago.

5 (No response.)

6 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Backing up for a moment, do
7 we have Chad Ward with us or Charles Grevious?

8 (No response.)

9 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: All right. Arewa Karen
10 Winters.

11 MS. WINTERS: Good afternoon, your Honor. Arewa
12 Karen Winters.

13 Twenty minutes. Sorry.

14 Arewa Karen Winters.

15 I was trying to put my own timer on so I can know
16 when I'm at my three minutes, but okay.

17 So Arewa Karen Winters, plaintiff -- Campbell
18 plaintiff, also a part of the Chicago Consent Decree
19 Coalition. And I'm a founder of the 411 Movement for Pierre
20 Loury.

21 So I do want to go into the pretextual stops
22 because that's most of what all of the other attendees are
23 here for today.

24 I know we were talking about whether it should be
25 added into the consent decree or if it should go to CCPSA or

1 if the Chicago Police Department, on its own, should end
2 pretextual stops.

3 But as far as the -- people keep putting emphasis
4 on the consent decree not working. And it's not the consent
5 decree. And it is just a vehicle. It is just a tool. It is
6 the Chicago Police Department that has been ineffective.

7 So I feel like every time I come here I sound like
8 a broken record because we're continually talking about the
9 lack of engagement that we have been having as community
10 members. And people seem to not understand that community is
11 involved in the consent decree.

12 The coalition is made up of leading organizers,
13 organizations, as well as civil rights attorneys. So there
14 is voice there. But we have so many challenges in trying to
15 get authentic engagement with the police department. So it
16 is one of my concerns about adding pretextual stops to the
17 decree.

18 However, if it should land inside of the consent
19 decree, I just would hope that there are different structures
20 built out around it because we are still struggling around
21 use of force. We are still struggling around home raids. So
22 there has been a lot of resistance to what we have been
23 offering to the department.

24 And as it stands now, if it comes into the decree,
25 like, where's their staffing? Because I know -- I haven't

1 read the last summary from the Independent Monitor, but the
2 last two prior to that, they have been short-staffed.

3 So are they going to dedicate staff to the
4 pretextual stops?

5 Will they meet the timelines if they are -- if they
6 are put there? If not, will we be able to impose sanctions?
7 Will we be able to charge them with contempt of court?

8 But, I mean, I'm just -- I'm also not feeling very
9 confident about it being with the Community Commission
10 either, and I am a district council member. And I did -- you
11 know, I voted for the new commission. But it is a new
12 commission.

13 The coalition is a body that has been working
14 together for seven years alongside our attorneys. I don't
15 know how far they will get because they will still have to,
16 you know, handle with the department also unless the whole
17 measure becomes politicized, which is something that it has
18 not been inside the -- inside the consent decree with the
19 Consent Decree Coalition.

20 So let me see. So yes, right now, there is
21 7 percent full compliance. But, again, if they work more
22 thoroughly and authentically with the Consent Decree
23 Coalition members, maybe they could come into a fuller
24 compliance. That is the other reason why so many people
25 don't feel confident about it, because of their measures as

1 to where they are.

2 So if they end pretextual stops, all they would do
3 is give stops some other name and implement something some
4 other kind of way.

5 So I am on the fence right now whether it ends up
6 with CCPSA or whether it comes to the Consent Decree
7 Coalition. But that's all I'm saying is, will we be able to
8 impose sanctions? I still don't know why we cannot impose
9 fines on this department. And they should have been charged
10 for contempt of court many times over.

11 I just want to close by saying every step towards
12 the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and
13 struggles, the tireless and varying and passionate concerns
14 of dedicated individuals. And I give that to the Chicago
15 Consent Decree Coalition for being involved in this work for
16 over seven years for free of charge.

17 And I also would like to say that I am an advocate
18 and supporter for the Dexter Reed family.

19 Thank you.

20 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you very much,
21 Ms. Winters.

22 Is Eric Wilkins here?

23 MR. WILKINS: Yes, your Honor.

24 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Mr. Wilkins, you're welcome
25 to step up.

1 MR. WILKINS: Good afternoon. My name is Eric
2 Wilkins.

3 I'm a CU plaintiff for the consent decree, and I'm
4 also the lead on the *Wilkins v. The City of Chicago* for
5 traffic stops.

6 You know, I don't think that traffic stops should
7 be under the consent decree, you know. And I've listened to
8 a lot of the plaintiffs here, and I echo a lot of the things
9 that they say. But being a black father -- I brought both my
10 sons, too, Eric and Jaleel.

11 Jaleel.

12 They're asleep.

13 Jaleel is 12 years old. The consent decree comes
14 after the murder of Laquan McDonald at 17. In five more
15 years, Jaleel will be 17.

16 You know, when we first started this process seven
17 years ago, Jaleel was five. You know, and I look at my
18 sons -- I'm from Roseland. I look at my sons, and I don't
19 have a child to give to violence. I don't of a child to give
20 to police brutality.

21 You know, Dexter Reed and Laquan McDonald was the
22 exact same age.

23 So you look ten years ago, Laquan McDonald was 17.
24 Dexter Reed, ten years later, 27. 16 shots to 96 shots.

25 We look at this, and we look at it as just numbers,

1 but there's a face to this. I don't have a kid to give. I
2 don't want they friends to go through it.

3 I've been through so much police brutality in my
4 life having my brother wrongfully incarcerated for 25 years
5 under the Jon Burge -- during the Jon Burge era.

6 You know, just -- I just look at this as, like, how
7 long can we give? How long can we give a fair chance at
8 what's going on? And I feel as if my sons don't have a fair
9 chance.

10 Thank you.

11 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, sir.

12 Is Porscha Banks here?

13 MS. BANKS: Hello. Good afternoon. I'm Porscha
14 Banks.

15 I'm here today on behalf of my brother, Dexter
16 Reed, who was murdered by Chicago police tactical team on
17 March 21st, 2024. Dexter was shot and murdered over 96 times
18 in 41 seconds. Ever since that day, it has been really a
19 nightmare for me and my family.

20 Dexter was a brave, intelligent, young guy. He
21 just wanted to live a private, happy, successful life.

22 Dexter went to college, and he also played
23 basketball, which was his favorite thing to do.

24 Without Dexter, it has really been hard for me and
25 my family; but most of all, for my mom.

1 Today, I am here to speak on the consent decree of
2 the justice -- and the justice that me and my family want for
3 Dexter.

4 It has been almost three months, and yet there are
5 still tactical teams running around the city harassing
6 innocent people, the same officers that are jumping out of
7 unmarked cars in regular clothing scaring innocent people.

8 I know that there's nothing that will bring my
9 brother back, but justice being served will warm me and my
10 family hearts, but not just us, for all of the other families
11 that are here and are out there that lost their lives in the
12 same situation or they has been threatened by Chicago CPD.

13 Our number one demand of justice will be the --
14 will be that laws should be changed and pretextual traffic
15 stops should be ended immediately.

16 No one else should lose their life before they
17 choose -- before they choose that tactical teams are disband.

18 CPD should be prohibited from imposing productivity
19 quotas.

20 Lastly, they should change the accountability
21 system so that officers who engage in this kind of violence
22 that took my brother lives are immediately stripped of their
23 police powers and taken off the streets.

24 There is no way that these police are still on the
25 street, and we demand that they are disbanded now. This

1 situation has impacted the entire world, and pretextual stops
2 should be changed immediately.

3 I just want to say thank you for hearing us out
4 today and for everything that's been going on with all these
5 families, and these stops should be banded immediately.

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

7 Amika Tendaji.

8 MS. TENDAJI: I'm Amika Tendaji. I'm with Black
9 Lives Matter Chicago.

10 We are a part of the Campbell plaintiffs that were
11 really insistent on getting the consent decree.

12 And I think some of this policy language loses it a
13 bit for us.

14 The Chicagoans were being brutalized by the people
15 they pay to protect them, so much so that the Department of
16 Justice wrote a very lengthy report saying they couldn't even
17 behave when the Department of Justice was in the car.

18 And we need the federal government urgently to
19 cease that, but it's been about five years and not much has
20 happened. We're no safer.

21 So one, we need to end the fear that's reasonable,
22 right? When the DOJ report is as long as it is, parents like
23 me, parents like Eric should be terrified if their children
24 are pulled over by the police.

25 My children, who are right there (indicating), are

1 in as much danger as her brother was. We all are.

2 We have a right as U.S. citizens, hopefully, not to
3 fear paying the people that we pay to protect and serve us.

4 My child didn't renew their sticker, didn't get
5 their plate sticker fixed or registration done in the right
6 time. That is no reason for the kind of fear that would go
7 through their bodies being stopped and my body being stopped,
8 because CPD has proven that it will choose brutality for its
9 citizens, especially as black citizens far more than anything
10 else.

11 Chicago was also under another consent decree.
12 When my family moved here during the Great Migration, we were
13 under a consent decree where meat packers were brutalized and
14 stopping folks from organizing unions, where butchers were
15 being undercut, and the commercialization processing of our
16 food where it includes human fingers and mouse parts and all
17 kinds of other filth that we're still dealing with really
18 began in Chicago.

19 Those people requested a consent decree. And there
20 is a famous -- Swift has no restaurant downtown now. There's
21 no more of the Armour and Swift meat packing buildings.

22 I think we need to, for the sake of Chicago, for
23 the sake of the U.S., for the sake of the experiment, lean in
24 harder on this consent decree than we did before.

25 I think we're at a point in proving consent decrees

1 don't work and there is no point to it.

2 But the same way that when my folks came up here
3 from Alabama that they were determined that they would not
4 fear lynchings for their great-grandchildren, we all deserve
5 to be able to trust that our children can drive and make it
6 home without getting killed by the people we pay.

7 So no pretextual stops, no stickers, no
8 registrations. If you are not an active safety danger to the
9 traffic around you, you should not be interacting with police
10 because it is well-documented that that is a brutal force,
11 and people casually bumping into the police can -- or the
12 police bumping into people can resort in a loss -- often
13 resorts in a loss of those lives.

14 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, Ms. Tendaji.
15 David Orlikoff.

16 MR. ORLIKOFF: Hello.

17 My name is David Orlikoff, and I'm a lifelong
18 Chicagoan and grassroots organizer.

19 As an elected district council of the
20 14th District, my job is to supply The Community Commission
21 for Public Safety and Accountability with the issues most
22 important to our communities so that they can take action to
23 make democratic policies to improve safety and accountability
24 for all of Chicago.

25 Ending pretextual traffic stops has been the number

1 one issue for my constituents for a year now, as it is with
2 many other communities and district councillors, 24 of whom
3 so far have officially made this a top priority for all of
4 our work.

5 It is absolutely critical that the democratic
6 mandate of the communities and district councillors working
7 with key stakeholders, like the Free2Move Coalition and
8 National Policing Institute, be respected because there is no
9 path forward for public safety or police accountability that
10 includes pretextual traffic stops in any form.

11 Pretextual traffic stops continue to federally ban
12 discriminatory and unconstitutional practice of
13 stop and frisk on wheels. Right after CPD ended its
14 stop and frisk practice, traffic stops increased 700 percent
15 to replace them.

16 Regular department memos from CPD leadership
17 confirmed the intentional top-down policy of using traffic
18 stops for petty violations as an excuse to search for
19 unsuspected contraband.

20 We've already -- we're already being sued again by
21 the ACLU, and there's no reason to delay, but we need to act
22 with haste or be further negligent. CPD's pretextual search
23 strategy abandons actual roadway safety.

24 I've also been a victim of traffic violence without
25 much response from police.

1 Stops for dangerous driving have plummeted just as
2 stops for petty violations, like seat belts and expired tags,
3 have skyrocketed. There's an inverse relationship.

4 CPD is not even interested in enforcing these petty
5 violations they're spending so much of their time on as they
6 ignore them except as an excuse to coerce an unrelated
7 search. If we need enforcement for these petty violations,
8 CDOT can handle it because CPD is ignoring these underlying
9 issues over 99 percent of the time.

10 Focusing on pretextual traffic stops weakens CPD's
11 ability to address crime. This is incredibly important to me
12 as a district councillor, and I hear about it all the time.

13 There are an incredible amount of wasted resources
14 with millions of stops having no public safety issue or
15 enforcement outcome.

16 According to the Office of the Inspector General of
17 Chicago, CPD is not responding to over half of 911 calls that
18 are made. They only log a response to 49 percent of calls
19 received. This is not a resource shortage problem according
20 to Deborah Witzburg. This is about resource allocation.

21 Pascal Sabino reports that the tactical team
22 officers, like the ones who shot Dexter Reed over a seat
23 belt, were created to answer 911 calls, but in 2023, they're
24 spending just 10 percent of their time on 911 calls and doing
25 pretextual traffic stops instead.

1 CPD Spokesperson Thomas Ahern confirms that,
2 although there are currently 600 active tactical team members
3 across the City, in each of our 22 police districts, there is
4 only a single patrol car assigned to answering 911 calls.
5 This is shocking.

6 After years of clogged courts and thrown-out cases,
7 the Cook County State's Attorney has said that they will not
8 prosecute cases coming from pretextual stops, confirming that
9 they are, at best, a waste of our resources and, at worst, a
10 deadly disaster.

11 Research shows there is no link between greater
12 traffic enforcement and public safety. The arrests they have
13 generated only contributed to crime through a 65 percent
14 recidivism rate after picking people up who pose no public
15 safety danger.

16 Pretextual traffic stops are racially disparate and
17 (unintelligible) to black and Latino communities. Black
18 drivers are over six times more likely, and Latino drivers
19 over twice as likely, to be pulled over than white drivers in
20 Chicago.

21 And what is even worse than that is that over
22 97 percent of all use of force in traffic stops are against
23 people of color. Over 97 percent of use of force are against
24 people of color in Chicago for traffic stops. Unacceptable.

25 Dexter Reed should be alive today, and he would be

1 if the policymakers had acted sooner on this issue.

2 The tactical team that shot 96 times at him had
3 over 30 prior complaints about pretextual traffic stops,
4 including for seat belt violations.

5 Chicago cannot afford to wait any longer. We have
6 deep concerns with the consent decree that has barely made
7 more than 1 percent compliance per year in effect.

8 We need to enact Free2Move's three-point policy
9 platform to fully ban pretextual traffic stops, limit
10 low-level stops, and end suspiciousless consent searches as
11 soon as possible with full community oversight and
12 follow-through. Anything less is a dereliction of our duty.
13 We cannot wait another week to take action, and we cannot
14 fumble on any of these crucial components of the three-part
15 Free2Move policy platform. This will save lives across
16 Chicago, and more are being lost as we wait.

17 Thank you very much.

18 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, sir.

19 Tom Lam is next on our list here. Mr. Lam, if you
20 could step forward.

21 MR. LAM: Good afternoon.

22 My name is Tom Lam. I volunteer a lot of my time
23 with the CAPS office and the Chinatown community to help get
24 the proper resources that it needs.

25 It's my understanding there are a lot of groups out

1 there that wants to stop CPD from doing their job. I can
2 tell you that in my community, Chinatown and Bridgeport, CPD
3 has, in the last few years, with their traffic stops has
4 taken illegal guns off the streets. And with those stops,
5 they've also taken people with warrants off the streets as
6 well. And I can tell you that illegal guns in my community
7 has greatly affected it.

8 Shy Juan (phonetic) was murdered in my neighborhood
9 with an illegal gun.

10 Now, I implore everyone in this room to, please,
11 not take the last tools that CPD has to do their jobs
12 properly in trying to prevent crime. They've already been
13 stripped away from their -- from doing their jobs properly
14 with no car chases and even having their foot policy being
15 revised.

16 And, you know, a safe community means a properous
17 community. We need our officers with the proper tools to do
18 their jobs; which, in turn, means we need more funding and
19 training so our officers know how to interact with citizens.

20 And lastly, I would like to thank all the first
21 responders here in this room for trying to keep us in the
22 community safe.

23 Thank you.

24 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, Mr. Lam.

25 Is Stephen Tang here?

1 MR. TANG: Thank you for the opportunity to speak
2 at such an important hearing.

3 I'm a lifelong resident of Chicago's Chinatown, the
4 second largest business district within the city of Chicago.

5 I've heard or witnessed so many of my fellow
6 community members become victims of senseless crime. I've
7 offered my love and support to victims' families far too
8 often.

9 Over the years, I've noticed a very disturbing
10 trend. These crimes are no longer simple batteries or damage
11 to property type of crimes. Residents and tourists have been
12 brutally robbed, beaten, and preyed upon; and, sadly, many
13 have lost their lives because of violent acts.

14 For example, two gentlemen brutally executed in a
15 botched carjacking as another one was shot and killed while
16 on the phone with a 911 operator pleading for help.

17 A 90-year-old man sucker punched, robbed and,
18 ultimately died from his injuries.

19 A disturbing similarity exists in these incidents.
20 None of the offenders were from the community. These
21 offenders were driving into our community. Business owners,
22 community stakeholders, elected leaders, watch groups,
23 faith-based and civic organizations have worked together
24 collaboratively with the police to bring a reduction in
25 crime.

1 We have paid for extra lighting, purchased hundreds
2 of cameras. We have circulated thousands of flyers to make
3 citizens aware of crime patterns and promote awareness within
4 the community.

5 I think everyone would agree these actions can be
6 classified as tools to combat crime. Police officers need
7 tools to combat crimes, none bigger than traffic stops.

8 For nearly a decade, Chinatown has lead or been
9 near the top in robberies throughout the entire city.

10 During the civil unrest of 2020, my community saw a
11 huge increase in crime. On multiple occasions, during vigils
12 and community gatherings, our community members pleaded for
13 more officers; and, thankfully, they listened and established
14 a secondary beat car specifically assigned to our community.
15 And now we are no longer on the top beat in the city for
16 robberies.

17 There has been a decrease in crime and an increase
18 in numbers of arrests. I have yet to hear one complaint from
19 a community member about the amount of police in my
20 community. I have yet to hear a citizen complain about
21 receiving a ticket. What I'm hearing is that our community
22 is starting to thrive once again.

23 Today I was asked to speak about the importance of
24 traffic stop policy and the impact on our community.

25 I have tried within the time frame allotted to

1 illustrate just how vital it is.

2 What I will close is with this: There's a
3 department policy and vehicle code in place. It's been
4 established and in practice for as long as I can remember.
5 And why are we taking more efficient tools away from the
6 police to keep the city safe?

7 Thank you.

8 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, sir.

9 Lee Bielecki -- Bielecki.

10 MR. BIELECKI: That's good.

11 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Sir, if you could step
12 forward.

13 MR. BIELECKI: Sure.

14 Could you pass this to the Judge. I appreciate it.

15 (Document tendered.)

16 MR. BIELECKI: Good afternoon, Judge.

17 My name is Lee Bielecki, and I am a member of the
18 Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability,
19 one of the district councillors representing the 22nd Police
20 District on the southwest side. I was also a Chicago police
21 officer for 27 years.

22 A lot has been said and will be said today on the
23 topic of traffic stops. Groups call these traffic stops
24 "pretextual," the "new stop and frisk" for police. As
25 outlined in their reporting activists groups, media, and some

1 politicians call for the end of the practice.

2 Superintendent Snelling has said that traffic stops
3 must be based on probable cause and reasonable suspicion. I
4 agree with his assessment.

5 I have seen and read all of the statistics and
6 percentages related to traffic stops. Impact for Equity,
7 Free2Move points out, in their opinion, that police officers
8 often use minor traffic law -- traffic law violations as an
9 excuse to search for signs of criminal activity. They claim
10 this is a legal loophole. This organization at the forefront
11 claimed that officers assumed they will find evidence.

12 Police officers receive training in traffic
13 enforcement to success. That the practice is totally based
14 on race is another assumption.

15 Here are some other statistics that I would like to
16 share. The combined total traffic stops conducted by the
17 Chicago Police Department in 2022 and 2023, according to the
18 Illinois Department of Transportation, was 1,049,109.

19 During that same time period, the Chicago Police
20 Department recovered 8,627 guns on traffic stops, totaling to
21 9,937 guns recovered through May 4th of this year.

22 Earlier this year, I submitted a Freedom of
23 Information request to the Chicago Civilian Office of Police
24 Accountability to obtain information relating to civilian
25 complaints made against Chicago police officers as a result

1 of traffic stops. I was surprised to find that only 251
2 complaints during that two-year period remain against Chicago
3 police officers, only 0.0002 percent.

4 The breakdown was 18 complaints which is
5 investigated and sustained by COPA. 30 of the allegations
6 were not sustained. 29 of the complaints exonerated the
7 officers. 20 of the complaints were unfounded. 90 percent
8 were administratively closed, and 64 were still being
9 investigated.

10 Basic reasons for cases administratively closed,
11 according to COPA, could be, but not limited to, the
12 preliminary investigation does not reveal misconduct, lack of
13 jurisdiction, information received does not support it or
14 does not constitute a complaint, or the complaint was over
15 five years old.

16 Sadly, Judge, we live in a city where gun violence
17 disproportionately affects marginalized communities. Much of
18 that violates or involves the use of vehicles.

19 Criminals don't generally use their personal
20 vehicles to commit and escape crime locations. They use
21 stolen vehicles, vehicles with improper or stolen license
22 plates. They drive away with headlights off to mask any
23 video that may be available in the area where the crime was
24 committed. They don't follow general traffic rules of the
25 road.

1 According to Impact for Equity from their own
2 subset of 2023 shows that the two highest categories for
3 traffic stops were improper expired plates,
4 headlight/taillight, license plate violations.

5 Judge, these violations outlined are and can be
6 probable cause and reasonable suspicion to conduct a traffic
7 stop.

8 According to the IDOT statistics, over 96 percent
9 of traffic stops result in a verbal warning for drivers,
10 including black and brown drivers. Public safety has many
11 faces.

12 The fact that an officer may stop someone to let
13 them know their plate is expired or their lights may not be
14 functioning properly is public safety. Not burdening folks
15 with a citation is another form of public service.

16 Judge, in the last 12 months, there have been over
17 300 homicide victims in marginalized communities,
18 overwhelmingly in black communities.

19 We must allow police to continue to act on probable
20 cause and reasonable suspicion to get guns off the street
21 that are wreaking the havoc and the trauma in the
22 marginalized communities.

23 Thank you.

24 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you very much.

25 Our next speaker is, I believe, Kevin Woods.

1 Mr. Woods, if you're with us --

2 Oh, I'm sorry. You can't be using a camera in the
3 courtroom.

4 Is Kevin Woods with us?

5 (No response.)

6 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Okay. What about José
7 Manuel Almanza? Are you with us? Do you want to step
8 forward, sir.

9 MR. ALMANZA: Hey, everybody. Hey, everybody here
10 and your Honor. Thank you for having us and allowing us to
11 speak today.

12 My name is José Manuel Almanza. I am a Latino man
13 who lives in the Little Village neighborhood in the West Side
14 of Chicago. I'm also a Marine Corps veteran. I served from
15 2008 to 2012.

16 I'm also one of the plaintiffs in the *Wilkins v.*
17 *Chicago*, a proposed class action seeking to end Chicago
18 Police Department's racially discriminatory traffic stops.

19 I'm speaking today on behalf of myself and the
20 other Wilkins plaintiffs and all the members of the proposed
21 class who we represent. That's hundreds of thousands of
22 black and brown people who get pulled over by the police
23 department in discriminatory pretextual traffic stops every
24 year.

25 We do not want the consent decree to steal this

1 issue from our case which we filed almost a year ago and
2 which we are fighting to win.

3 And we don't want money. We don't want an apology.
4 We want policy changes to make sure that this doesn't happen
5 to black and brown folks ever again.

6 Just yesterday, the judge in our case rejected the
7 City's attempt to dismiss our lawsuit. Our case is moving
8 forward, and we want to continue our fight.

9 I decided to be a plaintiff in the *Wilkins* case
10 because I want to see real change. I don't want this to
11 happen to any of my younger cousins, my neighbors, my
12 friends' kids, and eventually my kids.

13 I want to just describe what that police
14 interaction usually is.

15 Now, the story that I'm going to tell right now, I
16 have heard different versions of this same story over and
17 over again throughout the years since when I was a teenager
18 getting stopped and frisked to now getting pulled over for
19 the same reasons.

20 The last time was on 26th and Kedzie in the Little
21 Village neighborhood. I was at the red light stopped. I was
22 the first car at the red light. There was a police car that
23 pulled next to me, and I saw it on my peripheral. And
24 against -- and I was, like, don't look at them. Don't look
25 at them. Don't look at them. My entire inside head voice

1 kept saying that. Don't look at them. Don't look at them.
2 Just wait for the light to turn green. Keep going.

3 I didn't listen. So I just turned my head to the
4 right. I saw -- made eye contact with the police officers,
5 and I looked straightforward. As soon as the light turn
6 green, I accelerated. And then, surely enough, the police
7 car got into the driver lane instead of making a right and
8 then proceeded to turn the lights on and pull me over.

9 I'm 36. You know, I was just going to McDonald's
10 to get some food. I had nothing illegal on me. All my
11 documentations are in order. So I figured, you know,
12 whatever, it's not that big of a deal, but my heart still
13 kept racing.

14 As the police officer got out of his vehicle, he
15 had his hand on his gun and was walking towards me while his
16 partner was on the passenger side doing the same thing,
17 looking into the -- looking into -- looking through the
18 windows, looking into my car.

19 I started getting nervous. I started getting
20 anxious. I was, like -- started talking too fast. I was,
21 like, am I making myself look suspicious because my anxiety
22 and my heartbeat is up?

23 The police officer never asked for my insurance.
24 Never asked for my registration. All they wanted to see was
25 my driver's license.

1 I handed it to him. My hand was shaking because I
2 was nervous. And he made a remark that I just don't want to
3 repeat right now. He took my license.

4 While he went back to his vehicle and was running
5 my name, I guess, the other police officer on the passenger
6 side kept peering in and was asking me questions and trying
7 to get me to consent to a search.

8 I knew I didn't have anything on me, and I just
9 didn't want to prolong the situation. I didn't want it to
10 escalate. So I was, like, all right. Just do it.

11 Lucky enough, they got a call, something a little
12 bit more pressing, so they left.

13 And I've heard this story over and over again. And
14 many people might think, well, what was the -- what's the big
15 deal? You didn't get a ticket. You didn't get arrested.
16 But this doesn't happen to white drivers. It only happens to
17 black and brown drivers. We keep getting harassed. And
18 there's no wonder why there is such a terrible relationship
19 between community and the police, because this is the number
20 one way we interact with police is getting pulled over.

21 And we consistently get treated with a lack of
22 respect. We get talked down upon. We get treated like
23 criminals. We get treated like we did something wrong. And
24 we're just trying to move about our day.

25 We do not want traffic stops to be brought into the

1 consent decree. We, the people who lived through CPD's
2 repeated discriminatory traffic stops over many years, came
3 forward, stood up to CPD, and bravely filed a case to end the
4 discriminatory discrimination and harassment we face in our
5 neighborhoods.

6 Now, the CPD and the AG's office are suggesting
7 that they may negotiate something without us. They might cut
8 off our case. That is not fair to us -- fair to us or the
9 communities we represent.

10 In the *Wilkins* case, CPD has to answer to us, black
11 and brown drivers. CPD should have to face our discovery
12 requests, our claims, our demands for change, all of which
13 they have fight tooth and nail to not give to us. So forgive
14 me. Don't believe them when they are approaching us in good
15 faith.

16 In our case, CPD will have to try to justify why
17 they have harmed us, so many of us, and our friends and our
18 family and our neighbors on the South and West Sides with
19 discriminatory pretextual traffic stops.

20 A process in the consent decree that doesn't allow
21 for a full investigation and explanation of CPD's unlawful
22 behavior is not what we want.

23 We also don't want a process where we aren't at the
24 table. If CPD really wants to build trust with black and
25 brown Chicagoans who are harmed every day by CPD's pretextual

1 stops, they need to include people at the table with our
2 experiences. And they could also end the practice today if
3 they want to, instead of including it into the consent
4 decree, which will just prolong any action.

5 Traffic stops are an urgent life-and-death problem,
6 but CPD's progress under the consent decree is extremely low,
7 if they have made progress at all.

8 If CPD really wanted to do something about traffic
9 stops, they could do it today. The fact that the CPD
10 suggested the consent decree route rather than just fixing
11 the problem shows CPD doesn't appreciate the urgency. And
12 that's also on top of that when the CCPSA was looking for
13 superintendents, they made traffic stops -- they made
14 addressing traffic stops a priority for their search.

15 So the new superintendent knew that this was an
16 issue. So the fact that now, instead of acting on it and
17 changing the policy, they wanted to include it in the consent
18 decree, it goes back on what community members wanted and
19 what they envisioned for the new superintendent.

20 We are the people that are affected by this
21 problem, so we should be allowed to go forward with our own
22 case. That's what we want, to move forward with our own case
23 and to end the Chicago Police Department discriminatory mass
24 traffic stops through policy.

25 Thank you so much.

1 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, sir.

2 Channel Crittenden. Not here?

3 (No response.)

4 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Hank Gordon.

5 (No response.)

6 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Mahari Bell. Mr. Bell,
7 good. Why don't you step forward, sir.

8 MR. BELL: Good afternoon, your Honor. Good
9 afternoon, everyone.

10 I'm here today in order to seek change. I'm a
11 Chicago resident, born and raised here.

12 As I was growing up, I had the perception that CPD
13 or at least any police organization were public servants,
14 which means that they were meant to serve, protect, and save,
15 and things of that nature. But in turning into adulthood, I
16 found that, for me, that perception was skewed just based on
17 reality.

18 Last three years, I would say, has been tremendous
19 for me in terms of just facing the reality of what CPD is. I
20 think that pretextual stops -- pre-contextual stops are a
21 huge issue for Chicago, and it's one that we need to address.

22 For me, it's -- it's a lack of understanding, and I
23 want to address that today.

24 Over a year ago, for me, I had a whole bunch of
25 experience that sort of really skewed my perspective in order

1 of what CPD was, and one of them was as goes. A new downtown
2 normal day for me delivering with Uber, just food, but turned
3 into a really embarrassing and disrespectful and eventful
4 traffic stop.

5 I was pulled over by CPD. I was handcuffed, leaned
6 up against the hood of my car, searched, and really just
7 abused and violated in terms of my rights. And mind you, all
8 this was for delivering probably no more than a cheeseburger,
9 soda, and fries.

10 I'm here today because this issue is one that
11 deserves attention. It's one that deserves a solution and
12 not just a discourse.

13 I think that we, as plaintiffs, and the city of
14 Chicago and even CPD should come together to really discuss
15 towards a solution towards making the city safer and
16 realizing that this is actually a quality of issue situation.

17 Quality of life is really important to Chicago
18 citizens, and I think that CPD should work hard to really
19 uphold those values. I think that they need to work
20 together with the communities. They need to work together as
21 an organization to raise the quality of life for also,
22 specifically, black and brown drivers so that we don't have
23 to fear pre-contextual stops based on notions perceived by
24 CPD.

25 Thank you.

1 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, sir.

2 That was Mr. Bell.

3 Is Laura Saltzman here? Great. You may step
4 forward.

5 MS. SALTZMAN: Your Honor, representatives from the
6 Attorney General's office, the State, the City, and
7 Independent Monitoring Team, good afternoon.

8 My name is Laura Saltzman. I'm a senior policy
9 analyst for Access Living, a disability justice organization
10 here in Chicago, and a member of the Free2Move Coalition.

11 At this point, many of my other coalition members
12 have spoken, and I would like to echo their sentiments.

13 This is an important issue for disabled people.
14 Black and brown people are disproportionately likely to be
15 disabled.

16 Once stopped, a disability can lead to any number
17 of escalations, because the default assumption is always that
18 the person is not disabled. People have auditory processing
19 disorders, psychiatric disabilities, and physical
20 disabilities.

21 I've talked to members of our community afraid of
22 escalation because they are deaf and need to carefully
23 orchestrate handing a card to explain that they need an
24 interpreter.

25 There have been incidents where law enforcement

1 became agitated because community members were not jumping
2 and standing out of the car when asked, and they did not stop
3 to listen that the driver was a wheelchair user, who
4 physically could not accomplish that task.

5 Beyond the actual dangers, stress from these
6 incidents can make people less comfortable driving. It is
7 already difficult enough to traverse the city as a disabled
8 person. It does not need to be made more stressful and
9 isolating. And those are incidents where nothing further
10 occurred. Obviously, there are times where the outcomes have
11 been far worse.

12 Additionally, as mentioned previously, this is a
13 resource allocation issue. Dangerous driving is at an
14 all-time high. Mobility users are less likely to be able to
15 get out of the way or seen outright if in a wheelchair. This
16 is so frequent that a friend of mine was hit by a car
17 yesterday while in their chair. They're okay, and it was not
18 a hit-and-run. But we know that even fatal hit-and-runs have
19 a minimal clearance rate. The explanation is usually,
20 there's a staffing issue.

21 Change these policies and use the extra time to
22 investigate real crimes.

23 Traffic stops must be addressed, but we do not feel
24 the consent decree is the best place for that. Only
25 7 percent has been implemented. And to be clear, whatever

1 the case is with the consent decree, the department could
2 make changes tomorrow. It could have done so yesterday. We
3 know that this can be done because we saw how quickly the
4 department rapidly increased these stops as a response to
5 when pedestrian stop and frisk was banned. And this is
6 nothing more or less than vehicular stop and frisk.

7 However, if stops are placed in the consent decree,
8 there must be a robust and sincere community involvement
9 leading to a policy written with a clear implementation and
10 timeline and done so relatively quickly.

11 We urge consideration of the platform Free2Move
12 developed -- I'm sorry.

13 We urge consideration of a platform that Free2Move
14 developed, and this approach needs to be included -- end
15 pretext stops, limit low-level stops, and end suspicionless
16 consent searches. One solution is not enough.

17 Like many people here, in my line of work, there
18 are many issues I deal with day-to-day with policy decisions
19 that are difficult to decide, complicated problems that
20 require money and resources with contrasting evidence and
21 arguments to consider. This is not one of them.

22 Thank you.

23 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you very much,
24 Ms. Saltzman.

25 Michael Harrington.

1 MR. HARRINGTON: Good afternoon, Judge Pallmeyer.

2 I'm Michael Harrington. I'm cochair of Network 49
3 in Chicago's Rogers Park community. Our organization is a
4 Campbell plaintiffs and Free2Move Coalition member.

5 We've devoted many years to support community
6 development and in our public -- and our public safety and
7 Chicago Police Department oversight and accountability.

8 So traffic stops. Racially discriminatory.
9 Potentially dangerous. They hurt police and community
10 relations. Seems compatible with the consent decree, right?

11 Recall 16-year-old, 17-year-old Laquan McDonald,
12 16 shots and the police coverup. Now, ironically, under a
13 consent decree, death of another black Chicagoan, Dexter
14 Reed, 96 shots and a murder.

15 We regularly voice concerns about traffic stops,
16 policing, and the consent decree. Questions emerge again and
17 again about police recruit qualifications, deescalation and
18 use-of-force training, supervision, discipline, and now
19 traffic stops.

20 Police shootings and misconduct and Chicago paying
21 millions of dollars to residents and lawyers to settle
22 complaints prompt even more questions about the efficacy of
23 the consent decree.

24 Our primary concern begins with this fact: After
25 five years of court monitoring, CPD is only in 7 percent

1 compliance. At this slow rate of progress, that's
2 1.4 percent compliance per year. Maybe we'll reach
3 100 percent sometime next century. We won't accept such a
4 slow journey toward a new traffic stop policy.

5 How much time and money will be spent to monitor
6 and wait for compliance? The Court Monitoring Team billed
7 Chicago over \$15 million for five years of work. I won't
8 begrudge their 300- to \$500-per-hour fees. However, our
9 traffic stop goals can be met sooner and cheaper by taking a
10 different path.

11 Two months ago at a public meeting,
12 Superintendent Snelling told us that he would put traffic
13 stops -- he would put traffic stops into the consent decree.
14 Oh, it guarantees the policy cannot be weakened by future
15 mayors or superintendents. That may respond to public
16 criticism, but it also -- does it also deflect attention and
17 delay action on traffic stops?

18 Think about this scenario. Right now, the
19 superintendent can draft a special order today for officers:
20 ignore broken taillights; instead, watch for reckless or
21 dangerous driving.

22 Soon after getting public and employee comment on
23 the policy, it's adopted, and the police academy begins
24 training. At police roll calls, roll calls across Chicago,
25 officers get orders to employ more successful strategies to

1 prevent crime, respond, investigate, and improve public
2 safety. Researchers and the court monitor then begin
3 evaluating the new policy's impact.

4 Absent that process, this Court must recognize the
5 fundamental authority and responsibility of the Community
6 Commission for Public Safety and Accountability to answer the
7 demand to end traffic stops. This Court can inform and
8 support CCPSA's initiative.

9 Whether led by the Court and/or CPSA, will there be
10 deadlines? Identify expectations for change and improvement.
11 Impose sanctions for failure to meet deadlines.

12 Chicago residents and taxpayers have good
13 reasons -- constitutional, moral, and financial -- to demand
14 action.

15 We have read reports and thousands of cautious and
16 carefully calibrated words pushing for consent decree
17 compliance, but what we really need to see is a visible
18 change on the streets of Chicago.

19 It's not rocket science, and it shouldn't be as
20 hard as negotiating peace in the Middle East.

21 My final question on adding traffic stops to the
22 consent decree is: Will this Court exercise its power to
23 improve a police department that is slow and resistant to
24 change?

25 Thank you for considering my assessment and the

1 questions I've asked.

2 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, Mr. Harrington.

3 Is Leonardo Wiley with us?

4 (No response.)

5 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Beth Rochford.

6 MS. ROCHFORD: Thank you for having us.

7 My name is Elizabeth Rochford, and I'm a leader
8 with ONE Northside and a member of its Police Accountability
9 Task Force. I have been a part of this task force since its
10 inception.

11 As an organization, we pushed for the consent
12 decree because we had no other option for police reform and
13 knew that changes needed to be made.

14 Many of our members had been victims of police
15 misconduct, and we were compelled to take some action to stop
16 this.

17 I speak in honor of those who courageously spoke up
18 about their encounters and helped get this consent decree to
19 happen.

20 We always knew that the changes this decree called
21 for would be the floor, the minimum requirement for change to
22 the structure of policing in Chicago. This is why we worked
23 to pass the ECPS ordinance, which established civilian
24 oversight of the police.

25 Once passed, I ran for and was elected to the

1 17th District Council. Now I serve my constituents and all
2 residents of the city who are asking for much more than the
3 minimum change but real reform.

4 That brings me here to argue against putting
5 traffic stops into the consent decree. As we have heard,
6 pretextual traffic stops are a problem, but they should be
7 addressed by the CCPSA and not this system that is woefully,
8 woefully behind schedule in getting done what they have
9 already been tasked to correct.

10 The CCPSA gives the community a voice for reform.
11 That did not exist when this decree was agreed upon.

12 I am on the nominations committee, and I believe
13 that the commissioners we nominated are dedicated to this
14 policy change. I have every confidence that the permanent
15 commission will act swiftly to address this when they are
16 seated in two weeks.

17 To Attorney General Raoul and his staff, I have
18 been told by the coalition that you think that the commission
19 has not acted timely on this.

20 I want to put this in perspective. CPD has an
21 almost \$2 billion budget, over 10,000 employees, and has been
22 in existence for over 100 years.

23 The CCPSA has a \$4 million budget; less than
24 100 employees, which includes part-time commissioners and
25 district councillors; and has been in existence for less than

1 two years.

2 Despite this, we have met every deadline put before
3 us -- budget review, superintendent nominations, and
4 commission nominations, just to name a few -- and done it
5 with extensive community input.

6 CPD has not acted timely on anything this decree
7 has called for in over five years.

8 I alone have gotten 120 signatures in support of
9 having CCPSA address this issue and believe that we are the
10 only institution who the community can trust to get this work
11 done.

12 We are the body tasked with making change to
13 protect those most impacted by these policies, and we should
14 be the ones taking the lead on this.

15 Judge Pallmeyer, I urge you to allow the CCPSA to
16 keep control of this policy reform and be the voice for safe
17 and constitutional traffic stops in the future.

18 Please give us the chance to make the change the
19 people of Chicago want and deserve.

20 Thank you.

21 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you.

22 That concludes the initial run through this list.
23 I'm going to call the names of individuals who are on the
24 list but, for whatever reason, didn't step up. And if you're
25 here right now, we'd love to hear from you.

1 That would include Patricia Carrillo. Oh, I'm
2 sorry. You came up later. That's right. I'm sorry.

3 Derrick Hardaway.

4 (No response.)

5 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Alees Edwards.

6 (No response.)

7 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: John Robak.

8 (No response.)

9 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Did we hear from Chad Ward?

10 (No response.)

11 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Charles Grevious.

12 (No response.)

13 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Carmen Santiago.

14 (No response.)

15 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: All right. I think the
16 next name would be Kevin Woods.

17 (No response.)

18 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Chanel Crittenden.

19 (No response.)

20 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Hank Gordon.

21 (No response.)

22 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: And Leonardo Wiley.

23 All right. Is there anybody who wasn't signed up
24 but tried to and couldn't, for whatever reason, and would
25 like to be heard right now?

1 Yes, sir.

2 MR. HUDSON: Well, I did sign up. I had some
3 issues earlier today. I was at work in the virtual. So --

4 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Why don't you step up now.
5 I have got the list from this morning.

6 What's your name, sir?

7 MR. HUDSON: Elijah Hudson.

8 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Got it. Elijah Hudson,
9 your name is on the list. You were No. 18. So if you would
10 like to speak right now, sir, you would be welcome to.

11 THE MARSHAL: Your Honor, Alena Bradley just walked
12 in.

13 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: I'm sorry?

14 THE MARSHAL: Alena Bradley.

15 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Okay. Great. We'll call
16 her as well.

17 First we are going to hear from Elijah Hudson.

18 Go ahead.

19 MR. HUDSON: Good afternoon, your Honor. Good
20 afternoon, everyone.

21 I didn't come today with any statistics, although
22 for the last year, I have been doing a little bit of research
23 about the traffic stops and their predatory nature, because I
24 have been a victim of it probably since -- you know, I was
25 probably age of 15, 16 when I started driving, and I'm at the

1 age of 30 now.

2 So I would just like to say that I come with a
3 personal testimony of an event that took place in November --
4 I'm sorry -- October of 2022.

5 I was working for the City of Chicago at the
6 Metropolitan Water Reclamation District. And so I drive -- I
7 commute from the suburbs to Chicago.

8 You know, it was a normal day. I went -- I was
9 driving to pick up my son, and I was pulled over by two
10 officers from the 18th District. They were in an unmarked
11 vehicle. I was pulled over for expired tags.

12 And the stop had escalated -- excuse me. I'm
13 trying to remember exactly the sequence of events. But I
14 was -- yeah, I was -- initially, I was pulled over for the
15 expired tags, and then it escalated into, did I have a CCL?
16 Did I have any firearms in the vehicle? And I think that
17 that was, of course, predatory in nature, because I know that
18 CPD has -- a lot of police and agencies has the ability to
19 know if someone has a CCL just by running their plates. And
20 that's what I was told in my training when I originally got
21 my license. So I was asked about that.

22 And then me and the officer got into -- I would say
23 not really a debate, but he took it that way. And I asked
24 for a supervisor because I thought that things were headed in
25 an unprofessional direction, and I was hoping the supervisor

1 would correct it, and we could pretty much cease contact.

2 The supervisor came. He just simply backed up the
3 officers. And I think he was unbiased in that stop once
4 again because the nature of the traffic stop is to secure an
5 arrest.

6 And I felt like as me showing my professionalism,
7 letting it be known I'm a worker for the City of Chicago,
8 that it was completely looked over, and it was trying to
9 steadily probe to see what they can do to search me, see if
10 they could find anything. And nothing illegal was recovered
11 from the stop.

12 The commander returned the release form for my
13 property after the court case. The officers didn't show up.

14 So events like this is where there's a loophole
15 where citizens like myself are taken advantage of.

16 I'm not against CPD having policing powers. I
17 understand you do have to do your job. But the allocation of
18 the resources is the big issue here.

19 If you are focusing on small traffic infractions,
20 regardless if it leads to an arrest of an illegal firearm or
21 drugs, that shouldn't be the focus. The focus should be
22 probably responding to the calls and community relations.

23 So you better have an understanding of the
24 environment that you're policing.

25 I think we pretty much had a lot of years of

1 open -- I mean, I'm sorry -- empty promises of better
2 community relations. I don't know if we would be able to
3 repair that.

4 But I do know we need to keep a light shined on
5 this issue because it is illegal, as you know, to
6 stop and frisk. Some people don't experience it. Like
7 myself, I was just a worker driving home every day like I do
8 just to work for the City of Chicago, and I was victimized
9 and arrested.

10 Yeah. So I just wanted to give my testimony. I do
11 think we may need federal oversight because there hasn't been
12 any changes at this point now.

13 Yes, that would complete my testimony.

14 I want to just say thank you for allowing me to
15 speak.

16 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you, Mr. Hudson.

17 Thanks.

18 You said Ms. Bradley is here. Was that the name?

19 Do you want to step forward and -- you know what?

20 Tell me your first name as well, Ms. Bradley.

21 MS. BRADLEY: Alena.

22 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Alena?

23 MS. BRADLEY: Uh-huh.

24 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: All right. Thanks.

25 And what is your -- you want to make a statement.

1 Go right ahead.

2 MS. BRADLEY: So I am here in representation of
3 Community Renewal Society.

4 We are a Christian organization representing the
5 stance that we would not like the pretextual stops included
6 in this -- this entity. We are -- I'd like to speak on
7 behalf of the folks that haven't showed up. I had two folks
8 that were super -- and one is on their way.

9 We had two people willing to show up and give their
10 testimony as of two weeks ago, and now they have become
11 nervous and not showed up.

12 They have had pretextual stops. One gentleman has
13 been pulled over over 30 times in his 20 years of adulthood.
14 He is 36 years old. He has never received a ticket in the
15 city of Chicago or Cook County at all.

16 He is a City worker. He rebuilds cars with his
17 father. He rebuilds '92 Mustangs, in particular. And he has
18 been an upstanding citizen and has, like, not been in any
19 issue of the law.

20 The issue of pretextual stops is so urgent that I
21 don't think that it should be included in the consent decree
22 because it is -- the way that the consent decree is going
23 thus far is, we've had a paltry amount of -- I'm sorry -- we
24 haven't had enough forward movement with the consent decree,
25 and that's an urgent issue.

1 We have folks like my parents and myself and the
2 two folks that felt uncomfortable showing up today that are
3 scared for their own lives to be pulled over. And they have
4 young kids, 14-year-olds, both of them.

5 It's an urgent issue, and I would not like to add
6 that to that when we're at a 6 percent -- we're at 6 percent
7 compliance in the city of Chicago, and we're at 7 percent in
8 Cook County but not all the way in Cook County.

9 I don't think that this should be added at this
10 time because it has to be its own issue. It has to be its
11 own -- excuse me.

12 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Take your time.

13 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you.

14 (Brief pause.)

15 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you.

16 So that is our -- Keron Blair spoke to it earlier,
17 and I would like to add to that I am apologetic that we did
18 not have our other two folks come through and speak to their
19 own issues. But --

20 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Well, I think you did a
21 good job speaking up for them. Thank you.

22 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you so much.

23 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you.

24 MS. BRADLEY: Thank you.

25 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: All right. Are there other

1 individuals who expect or would -- yes, sir.

2 MR. WARD: I was on the list. I will go really
3 quickly. I'll be brief.

4 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Okay. You want to step up.

5 MR. WARD: Chad Ward is the name.

6 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Oh, great. I have your
7 name on the list, Mr. Ward. Thanks.

8 MR. WARD: Good afternoon, your Honor. Thanks for
9 letting me speak.

10 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Sure.

11 MR. WARD: Okay. So I don't have anything
12 prepared, and I'll be very brief.

13 So I've been a resident of the city of Chicago for
14 nine years. Just turned 41 in May, and I've been a driver
15 since I was 16 years old.

16 And I can just say my experience driving has been
17 fun. It hasn't always been the most upstanding, particularly
18 in my youth. But one thing that I've always had to prepare
19 for as a melanated driver, an African American male is the
20 experience with the interaction with police.

21 And so the reason why I think that it could be
22 counterproductive to add traffic stops into the decree is, it
23 actually decreases safety because -- from city to city, state
24 to state, because I'm from a different city, what I can say
25 is, statistics have shown throughout the years that traffic

1 stops can get a little sketchy, and particularly when dealing
2 with black males.

3 So just to make sure that everything is above
4 water, right now we have cameras on police officers so that
5 we can hold them accountable. I think that they should halt
6 and make sure that people that are in the communities are at
7 the table when they make that decision so that we can
8 definitely be protected and they can serve us in the right
9 way, and we can make a decision that works for community and
10 police and keep it fair because there's been traditionally an
11 issue when it comes to traffic stops and black and brown
12 people, males and females in Chicago and the United States of
13 America.

14 I thank you so much for letting me speak.

15 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you very much for
16 being here, Mr. Ward. Thanks.

17 Are there other individuals here whose names are on
18 the list or who tried to get on the list and would like to be
19 heard this afternoon?

20 (No response.)

21 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Well, I want to thank all
22 of you for your time. I definitely appreciate it.

23 I believe that we're going to be hearing kind of
24 short closing statements from the parties, and I am happy to
25 take those on right now.

1 MS. GRIEB: Good afternoon again, your Honor.

2 Mary Grieb from the Attorney General's Office on
3 behalf of the State of Illinois.

4 First, thank you again and thank the Monitoring
5 Team for coordinating this all-day hearing.

6 Thank you most of all to members of the public who
7 have come, taken time away from their family, their jobs,
8 work, and their days to speak to us in court today.

9 A thorough line through all of the experiences and
10 recommendations and perspectives we've heard today is that
11 traffic stops not only impact the driver, of course, and
12 people in the car, but also the community at large, whether
13 it's community members with a perspective on changes that are
14 necessary or community members who simply watch the traffic
15 stop in their own neighborhood. And that's why the community
16 and the voices of the people need to be the foundation of any
17 changes that the department makes in traffic stops.

18 As our team has been here today -- and not just the
19 five of us at counsel table but several more in the audience
20 have been taking careful notes and listening carefully to
21 everyone's remarks today.

22 As I said this morning, today is only the first
23 step, and we look forward to further community engagement on
24 this very critical issue.

25 So thank you, your Honor.

1 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you.

2 Superintendent Snelling, we're happy to hear from
3 you.

4 SUPERINTENDENT SNELLING: Thank you, Judge.

5 And thank you to everybody here in the courtroom
6 today. I really appreciate the comments from everyone.

7 I have a prepared statement, but I'm not going to
8 read that. And the reason that I'm not going to read that, I
9 showed up here today so that I have firsthand experience,
10 firsthand knowledge of the feelings of our community, what
11 the thoughts are.

12 Especially with the last few speakers to give their
13 testimony on their experience and how balanced their
14 testimony was, it actually reaches the soul, and it gives me
15 more of a focus on what it is that we're doing.

16 So let me just be clear on one thing when it comes
17 to traffic stops, and I've said this from the very beginning.

18 My policing strategy is not focused around traffic
19 stops. Since I took this position -- I've said it a million
20 times -- my number one focus is to reduce violent crimes, to
21 reduce trauma to our neighborhoods. As someone who grew up
22 in a marginalized community -- that community being
23 Englewood -- I've seen this all my life.

24 I've also seen the experiences with the police
25 growing up. I'm a child of history, and I'm a truth-teller.

1 I'll say exactly what it is.

2 What I'm looking for right now is a way to lessen
3 the ability for violent actors and violent criminals within
4 our communities to shoot our children, which we're seeing
5 more and more of; to -- from abusing our women; from robbing
6 the elderly; from young black men, young brown men who are
7 constantly being victimized by shootings and homicides.

8 What I've done so far with training -- because this
9 goes beyond a consent decree, and I want everybody to
10 understand this while I go through this step by step.

11 The reason that I decided that traffic stops should
12 go in the consent decree, because it's tied to several
13 things.

14 It's tied to Fourth Amendment training, and the
15 training is the biggest part of it. It's the creation of a
16 policy that is going to be followed for years to come.

17 Now, what I will tell you is this: Right now, I've
18 put all of my command staff through training because I
19 believe everything has to start from the top, and it has to
20 trickle down.

21 Leadership is the key here. We cannot go bottom up
22 and go straight to the officers. We have to start from the
23 very top.

24 The leadership has been trained on what the
25 expectations are coming from me, the superintendent.

1 Since talking and training my command staff about
2 this, traffic stops this year, just over -- a little over
3 five months -- have been reduced by 87,000. In that time,
4 we've made 500 more felony arrests with a lot of those
5 involving violent crimes and violent criminal acts.

6 We've recovered nearly the same number of guns that
7 we recovered last year, which, Chicago, every year we recover
8 more guns than any major metropolitan city across the
9 country.

10 We've made a total -- we've increased our arrests,
11 some of those dealing with violent crimes, by 3,000. That is
12 with 87,000 less traffic stops.

13 Now, what that tells me is, is that we're moving in
14 the right direction, but that does not tell me that we have
15 arrived at this point.

16 Earlier this morning, while on the call, a
17 well-informed speaker spoke up about the consent decree and
18 stated we did not get here overnight, and we are not going to
19 get out of it overnight.

20 This is about culture change. If we want to
21 effectively change the way that we're policing and the way
22 that we're interacting with our communities, we have to bring
23 both sides to the table.

24 I've heard here today that we will be cutting out
25 community and community input. That is absolutely not true.

1 That is why I'm here today.

2 I'm willing to listen to anyone in this room.

3 I have a great working relationship with the CCPSA;
4 specifically, President Driver, Remel Terry, and we have
5 these conversations all the time. And I look forward to
6 having further conversations about this.

7 It is important to have the community input. And
8 having been here today, I realize how important it is even
9 more.

10 So what I will tell you is this: Training is of the
11 utmost importance here. It has to be rooted in Fourth
12 Amendment, number one. Constitutional policing is at the
13 forefront here.

14 Number two, we're training all of our officers in
15 respectful encounters. When we are encountering human
16 beings, the number one thing that people want more than
17 anything else is respect, and we want to make sure that our
18 officers are trained in that manner.

19 We have to have a community connection. One of the
20 things that I'm looking to do, especially with our new
21 officers and our current officers, is to have more contact
22 with community members, especially those in marginalized
23 communities.

24 If we're having these conversations -- if we come
25 to the table and we sit across from each other, even if we

1 disagree and not be disagreeable, I believe that we can make
2 progress.

3 When we humanize each other, when we understand
4 each other, we connect with each other much better.

5 Right now, transparency is the key for me. And I
6 want to make sure that everybody understands that right now
7 I'm still working on a dashboard to get it up and running so
8 that anything that you want to know about the Chicago Police
9 Department, we will have that posted. Obviously, we can't
10 post every single thing because there are legal issues around
11 that, but those things that the public should know, you will
12 be able to find those things.

13 If we have community input, this is how we get
14 better. We will continue to do that.

15 I will continue to reinforce to my members the
16 importance of respect, the importance of listening to our
17 community members, the importance of training our way into
18 the future of policing.

19 Lastly, I would like to say this. The focus that I
20 have on policing right now is intelligence-driven policing.
21 I do not believe in the low-hanging fruit style of policing.
22 That's dead.

23 Right now, if we want to get to the bottom of
24 public safety, we want to keep our neighborhoods safe, we
25 want to keep our children safe, our elderly safe, we have to

1 have an intelligence-driven strategy that's going to remove
2 the most violent criminals from the street and keep those
3 individuals safe.

4 That being said, I am ready to have a conversation
5 about these traffic stops and the way that we move forward so
6 that we can start to rebuild the relationship between our
7 community members and our police department.

8 Thank you, Judge.

9 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thank you very much,
10 Superintendent Snelling, and thank you for being here and
11 listening to the concerns of a community that obviously takes
12 this very seriously.

13 I think it speaks well of our city that we have so
14 many of you who have come forward to speak, not always saying
15 the exact same things. You've taken different positions, but
16 you've been respectful and very forceful with one another and
17 with me. And I really appreciate hearing from all of you.

18 You can see I've been taking notes, and I do think
19 that you've raised a number of issues that we need to think
20 hard about as we move forward, not only with the consent
21 decree but also with, specifically, the issue of traffic
22 stops.

23 So, again, I want to thank everyone for being here
24 and for the statements they've made and for your continued
25 interest in commitment to making the city of Chicago the kind

1 of place that we can be very proud to live in and be part of.

2 I think there's nothing further this afternoon, so

3 I think we are adjourned.

4 MS. HICKEY: Yes, your Honor.

5 If we could just let the community members know, if

6 you were unable to speak today or for those who have more to

7 say, the Court is accepting written comments through Friday

8 at 4:30. And instructions on how to file written comments

9 can be found in the Court's order or on the Monitoring Team's

10 website: cpdmonitoringteam.com.

11 And anyone with any questions can contact my team

12 at contact@cpdmonitoringteam.com.

13 CHIEF JUDGE PALLMEYER: Thanks.

14 THE CLERK: All rise. Court is adjourned.

15 (An adjournment was taken at 3:20 p.m.)

16 * * * * *

17 I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the
18 record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

19 /s/ Frances Ward July 25, 2024.

20 Official Court Reporter

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