



**OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS**

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Margaret A. Hickey
Independent Monitor
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**Re: Comments on IMT's Community Survey Report (October 2021-May 2022)
Consent Decree, Illinois v. Chicago, 17-cv-6260 (N.D. Ill.)**

Dear Ms. Hickey:

On April 4, 2023, the Independent Monitoring Team (IMT) provided the City and the Office of the Illinois Attorney General (OAG) a draft of the Community Survey Report (October 2021-May 2022) (Report). This is the second community survey of Chicagoans conducted by the IMT, allowing the IMT to compare results with the first baseline survey, which was conducted between November 2019 and February 2020. We appreciate the IMT's efforts in compiling and reporting the results of a detailed, thorough survey and appreciate Chicagoans' time in sharing their experiences.

The survey results are a call to action for the City and the Chicago Police Department (CPD). They show declining rates of trust in CPD and confidence in its effectiveness. White and Latino Chicagoans had worse perceptions of CPD than in the first survey, and Black Chicagoans continued to have the most negative perceptions of CPD. This mistrust was particularly pronounced among young Black men, who rated the CPD more negatively than all other Chicagoans on nearly all questions.¹ But it was not limited to Black Chicagoans: the CPD received a combined positive rating by over 50% of Chicagoans on only 11 of the 54 (20%) ratings questions, a noticeable decrease from the previous survey.²

¹ Report, p. 5.

² Report, p. 6.

These survey results confirm what many Chicagoans have told the City and CPD for years: there is pervasive mistrust of the CPD, particularly among Black Chicagoans, and frequent interactions with officers only deepen this mistrust. Last summer, the IMT filed a special report on focus groups it had conducted with young Black and Latino men.³ Focus group participants relayed disturbing experiences with CPD officers, including calling an interaction with CPD “a minstrel show,” describing a “big divide between officers and the community,” and expressing concern about even contacting police for help (“I’m afraid to call them, even when witnessing a crime”). One participant put it plainly: “They don’t trust me, so I don’t trust them.” These negative experiences are also reflected in the 2022 survey results: Black Chicagoans and Young Black Men reported much more involuntary contact with the CPD, including stops, and experienced more frequent use of force and gun pointing.⁴

Perceptions of racial bias by CPD are widespread among Chicagoans. The Report found that the majority of Chicagoans (52.2%) said the CPD are doing a “poor” or “very poor” job at treating members of the Black community fairly.⁵ This echoes the early 2016 findings by the Police Accountability Task Force that at each community forum it held, it “heard a large and diverse group of Chicago residents express their deeply held view that racism, or at least racial bias, is the root cause of the lack of trust between CPD and minority communities.”⁶ The Task Force described the forums as “a window into the intense sadness, pain, and frustration the community feels as a result of their first-hand experiences with CPD.”

The OAG is also greatly concerned that nearly half of Chicagoans do not believe that police reform will create sustainable change. The survey found that a higher percentage of Chicagoans (43.2% in 2022 vs. 33.1% in 2020) doubted that police reform will have a lasting and positive effect.⁷ These survey results are the predictable consequences of CPD practices such as resistance to incorporating community input into policy changes; disproportionate targeting of Black and Latino residents for pedestrian and vehicle stops; and engaging in “hot spot” policing and other tactics that result in officers saturating communities of color with traumatic results. For the past four years, building community trust with Chicagoans has taken a backseat to a check-the-boxes approach to reform. That has to change.

The City and the CPD must not continue to ignore what Chicagoans have said time and again. New leadership must take this opportunity to get sustainable reform right: approaching community engagement, community policing, and public safety holistically, with a deep commitment to ending racist policing tactics that target Black and Latino communities in Chicago. OAG stands ready to continue its work with the City, CPD, IMT, the Coalition, and all Chicagoans to address the long-standing and deep-seated concerns identified in the community survey.

³ Special Report: Focus Groups with Black and Latino Men, Ages 18-35 (Conducted December 2020- June 2021) (available at [2022.09.01-IMT-Special-Report-Focus-Groups-with-Black-and-Latino-Men-...pdf](#) ([cpdmonitoringteam.com](#)))

⁴ Report, p. 5.

⁵ Report, p. 5.

⁶ Police Accountability Task Force Report, p. 32. (available at [Microsoft Word - 720210597_9.docx](#) ([chicagopatf.org](#)))

⁷ Report, p. 5.

Respectfully,

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/s/ Mary J. Grieb

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