



Community Oversight Overview

BPI BUSINESS AND
PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE FOR
THE PUBLIC INTEREST

ABOUT BPI

For over 50 years, **BPI** has worked to achieve its vision that every person has the right and opportunity to live their fullest life in a thriving community and free of systemic barriers.

An innovative Chicago-based public interest law and policy center, BPI utilizes a combination of legal tools, policy research, advocacy, organizing, and convening to work towards transformational change.

OUR MISSION

It is our mission to combat systemic barriers to equity and to fight for racial, economic, and social justice.

How We Do Our Work

Through partnerships with community-based organizations, members of directly impacted groups, government agencies, foundations, and academic institutions, BPI works to change policy that affects people impacted by racial and economic injustice.

Systems Change Guided By Our Values

At BPI, our organizational life and work is guided by our values:

- **Collaboration.** Building collective power by working respectfully and sharing power.
- **Determination.** Honoring the struggle through humility, tenacity, innovation, and risk taking.
- **Effectiveness.** Striving for results that lead to enduring change.
- **Equity.** Requiring justice and fairness in access, process, and results.
- **Integrity.** Approaching our work with honesty, intentionality, and transparency.

Community Oversight and Policing in

Chicago:

*A New Tool for Improving Public
Safety and Accountability*

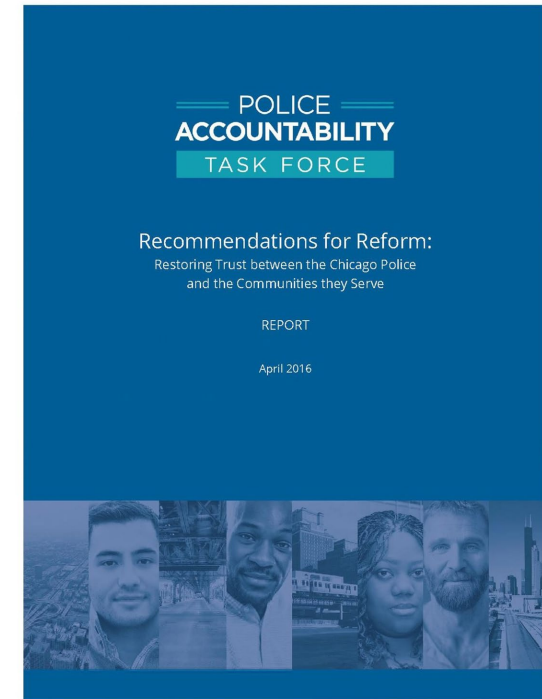
Calls for Reform

Winter 2015

- City releases video of **Laquan McDonald's** shooting, which had occurred in October 2014.
- Cook County's States Attorney, Anita Alvarez, **announces criminal charges** against Officer Jason Van Dyke.
- Chicago Mayor Rahm Emmanuel creates **Police Accountability Task Force (PATF)** to review the system of accountability, oversight, and training for Chicago police officers. **Lori Lightfoot** is selected as Chair of PATF.
- **U.S. Department of Justice** announces pattern and practice investigation into Chicago Police Department.



- In April 2016, Police Accountability Task Force recommends the **creation of a new community oversight board**
 - Finds that such a board would fill a “gaping hole” in current system
 - Describes that “substantial community involvement is an absolute necessity to build trust in the police accountability system”
 - Calls for community board to be “developed with broad public input”
- In January of 2017, the U.S. Department Justice finds that CPD engages in a pattern or practice of using force, including deadly force, in violation of the Fourth Amendment of the Constitution
 - Finds **systemic deficiencies in accountability**
 - Notes lack of effective community-oriented policing strategies



The Need for Accountability & Community Engagement

Grassroots Alliance for Police Accountability is Created

In 2016, a broad coalition of community organizations came together and formed the **Grassroots Alliance for Police Accountability (GAPA)** for the purpose of responding to the recommendation of the Police Accountability Task Force to develop a community safety oversight board.



GAPA's Roots & Process Timeline



Leadership, Partnership, and Trust: A Community Plan for a Safer Chicago

We released a report based on what we heard from our communities.

March

A Summer of Action

We introduced our ordinance and **18 alderpeople** signed on right away.

GAPA Support Grows

Summer of 2019, GAPA reintroduced our ordinance after Mayor Lightfoot came into office and secured the support of **29 alderpeople** right away!



Joined Forces

In March 2021, the coalitions behind GAPA and Civilian Police Accountability Council (CPAC) ordinances joined together to create the ECPS ordinance.



November & December

GAPA held **19 Community Conversations** across the North, South, and West sides.

2017 Continued

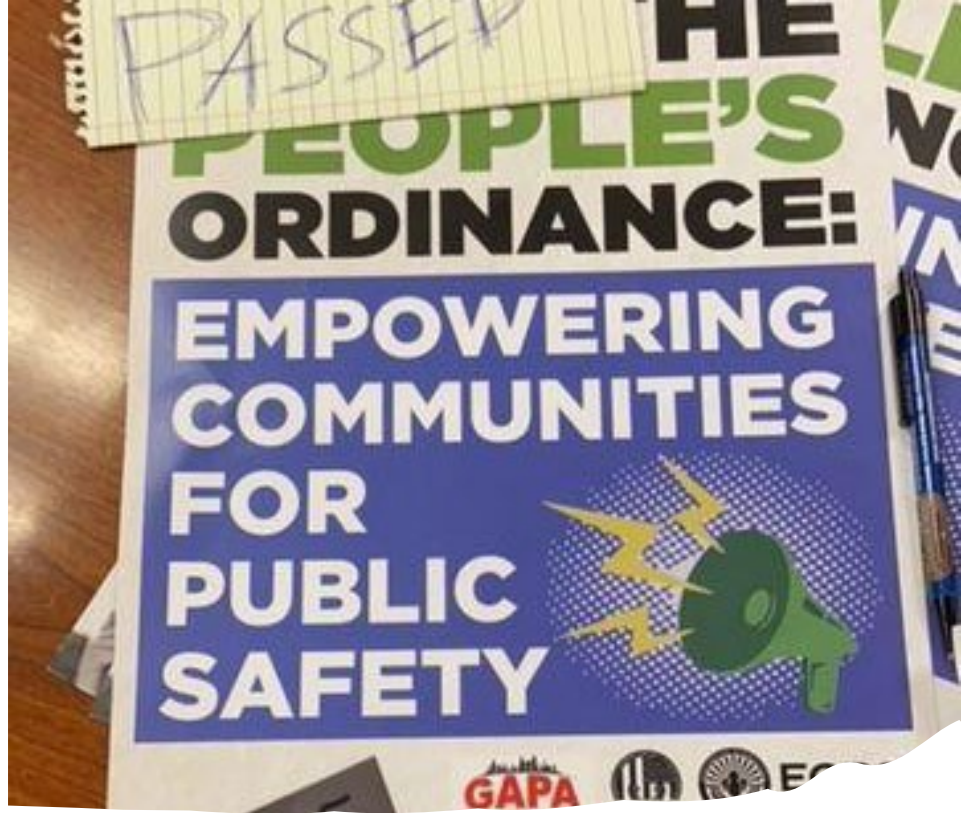
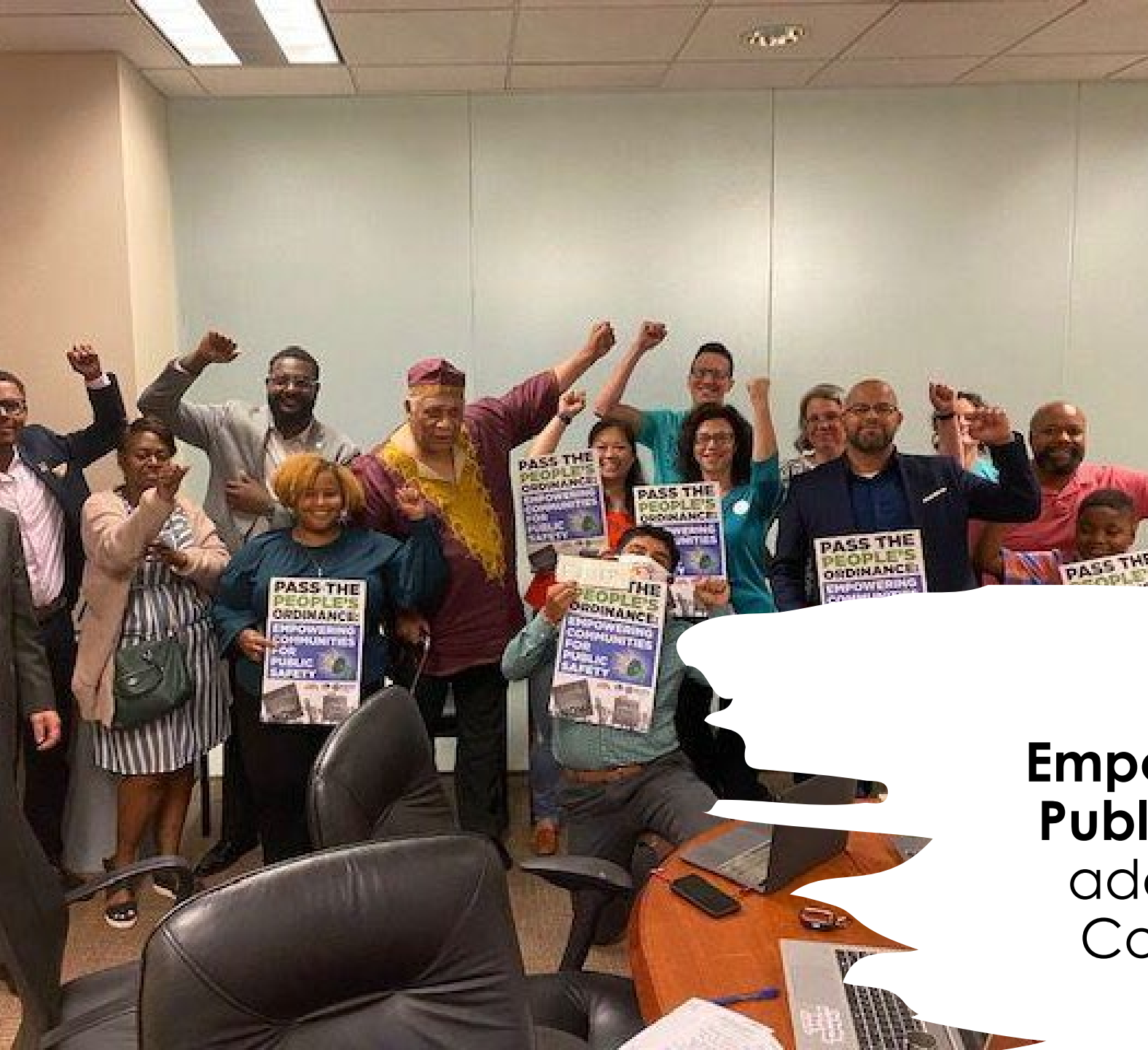
More community conversations to finalize our ordinance and **many aldermanic** meetings to gather support.

Hard Work Pays Off!

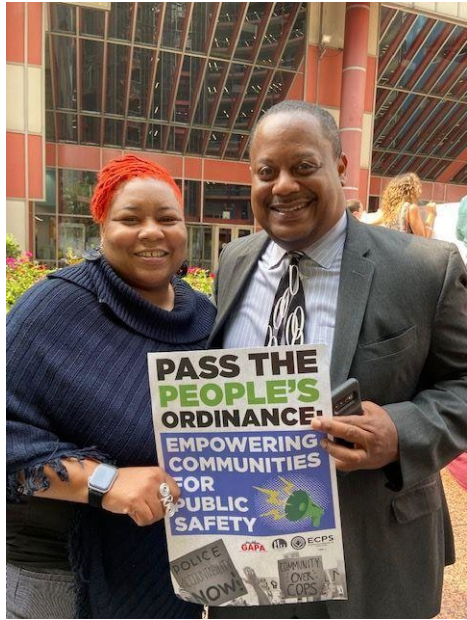
10 additional alderpeople signed on as we entered 2019.

Cross Communal Efforts

A blur of new precautions, mutual aid, zoom meetings, protests against police, bigger conversations, voter registration, phone and text banking...and so much more...

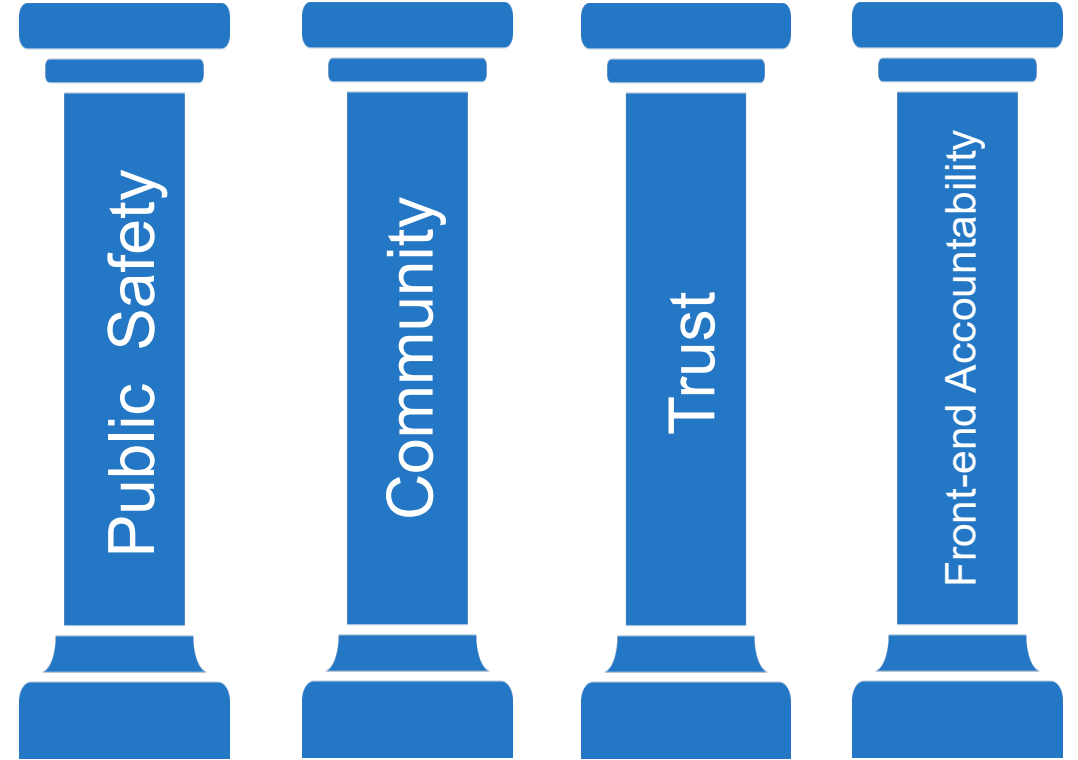


On July 21, 2021 the **Empowering Communities for Public Safety** ordinance was adopted by Chicago City Council in a historic vote.



An ordinance that...

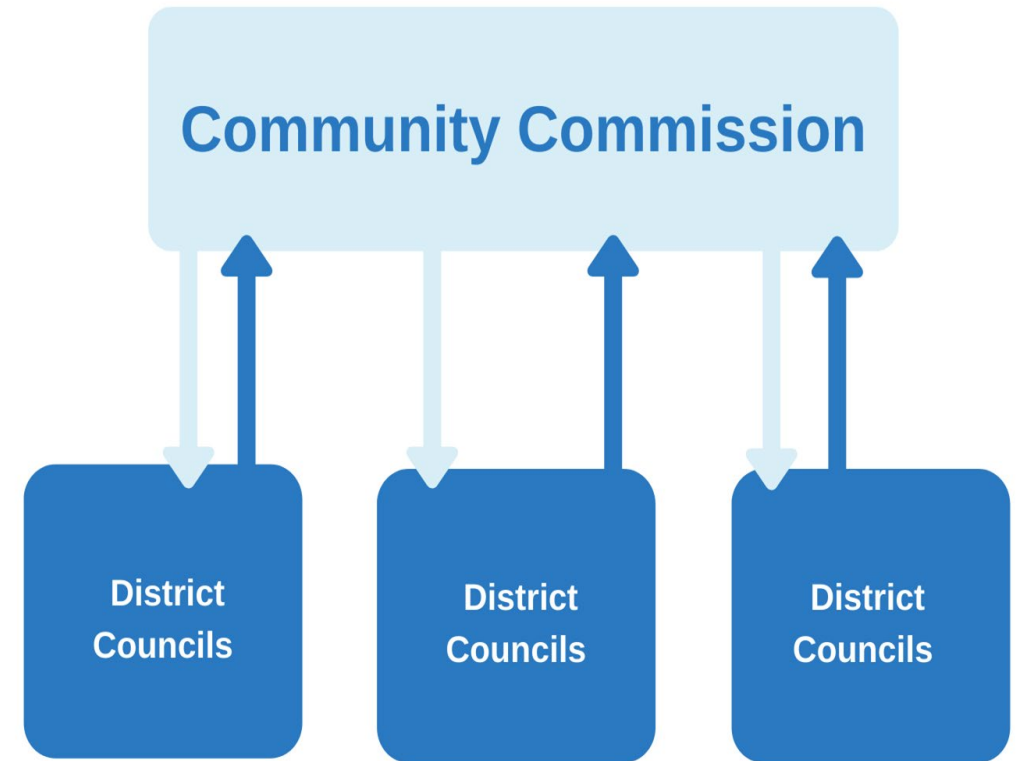
- Increases **public safety**
- Is grounded in **community**
- Builds **trust**
- Creates **front-end accountability**



Empowering Communities for Public Safety **Goals**

The **ECPS** ordinance creates

- A citywide **Community Commission** with **7** Commissioners nominated by the elected District Council members, selected by the Mayor, and confirmed by the City Council.
- **District Councils** in each of the **22** police districts with **3** members elected by the community, that select and set priorities for the Community Commission.



Ordinance Overview: **A Two-Tiered Structure**

Makeup:

- **7 civilians total**
- At least two from each side of Chicago
- two attorneys with over 10 years of experience in the criminal legal system
- two youth commissioners between the ages of 18-24
- At least one organizer with over 10 years of experience

Commission Purpose:

- Play a different role than the existing oversight body
- Give civilians a role in making key decisions about police department leadership, policies, and priorities
- *Build legitimacy* for the police department, which will *create trust* and *ultimately make the city safer*.

The Community Commission: **What is it?**

Commission Goals:

- **Increase** public safety
- **Build trust** between CPD and the people it serves
- **Increase public support** for the CPD policies and activities
- Ensure that CPD activities **maximize public health** and safety and **minimize harm to residents**
- **Improve interactions** between police officers and residents
- **Increase accountability** of CPD, COPA, and Police Board

Key Commission Powers:

- 1).** Play a central role in selecting and removing key public safety leaders
- 2).** Draft, review, and approve CPD, COPA, and Police Board policy
- 3).** Establish goals and evaluate progress for CPD, COPA, and Police Board
- 4).** Make CPD budget recommendations
- 5).** Identify and recommend preventative, community-based, and evidence-based solutions to violence
- 6).** Engage the community & increase transparency

The Commission: **Goals and Powers**

Makeup:

- **3 elected members** in each **police district**.
- First elections in February 2023 municipal elections, and every four years after that
- Regular elections, overseen by the Board of Elections

District Council Purpose

- Represent voices of community in each police district
- Select Commissioners
- Ensure that the Commission's work is informed by residents' concerns and priorities
- Work with district residents and police to develop local safety initiatives rooted in community concerns and priorities including alternatives to policing restorative justice measures.
- Create and oversee a safe forum for residents to raise and work to address concerns about policing in the district

District Councils: What are they?

- **Expanding** community engagement and trust
- **Improving** police policies and practices
- **Increasing** accountability
- **Sustaining** reform
- **Building and expanding** community capacity



District Councils: **Goals**

For more information,
<https://www.bpichicago.org/areas-of-focus/police-accountability/>

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