



Chicago passed the historic Empowering Communities for Public Safety ordinance!

The Chicago Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression and the Grassroots Alliance for Police Accountability are two coalitions made up of churches, temples, organized labor (trade unions), community-based organizations, LGBT communities, immigrant communities and youth organizations who are united by their common interest in establishing a policing structure that puts the community in charge. After years of our organizing, the Chicago City Council finally passed the Empowering Communities for Public Safety Ordinance. This historic piece of legislation represents the best thinking on police accountability from communities and experts from across Chicago and the nation. It finally gives everyday people in Chicago a voice in what policing needs to look like in our City and in the United States, and the power to change the broken system as it currently exists.

The Empowering Communities for Public Safety ordinance will:

Give Chicago's communities a say in who runs the police accountability system:

- In each police district, voters will elect members of the community for District Council positions. One elected District Councillor from each district will serve on a Nominating Committee to decide who will serve on the Community Commission. The Nominating Committee will provide a list of qualified candidates to the Mayor, who will appoint a chosen candidate or provide a written explanation for going in a different direction.
- The Community Commission will have the power to appoint the head of COPA, the agency that conducts police investigations. It will also make recommendations for candidates for Police Superintendent and Police Board members, and can execute a vote of no-confidence to trigger City Council action against them.

Establish elected District Councils for the purposes of building connections between CPD and the community, including:

- Collaborating in the development and implementation of community policing and restorative justice initiatives.
- Planning and facilitating consistent forums in each police district, where residents can raise and work to address any concerns about policing in the district.
- Ensuring the independence and increasing the legitimacy of the Commission by participating in the selection of its members.

Give communities a decisive voice over police department policy:

- The Community Commission will also be able to develop or amend policy for CPD, COPA, and the Police Board to reflect best practices and community needs. Policies may be vetoed by the mayor and overridden by a two-thirds vote in City Council, but the mayor must provide a written explanation for their decision to veto.
- In each police district, elected members from the community will also be responsible for working with their community to get input on police department policies and practices, which will be communicated to the Community Commission as they make policy.

The Empowering Communities for Public Safety committee is committed to making sure this victory is as impactful as possible. By working in partnership with the city to appoint an effective interim Community Commission and seeking out passionate and informed candidates for District Council elections in April 2023, we will ensure that real reform of CPD happens to make Chicago more just for all its residents.