



February 5th, 2026

To: The Community Commission on Public Safety and Accountability (CCPSA)

Good afternoon,

The GAPA coalition would like to start by thanking the District Councilors for making the January 8th hearing happen regarding the collaboration between the Chicago Police Department (CPD) and federal immigration enforcement. Thank you to the community for making their voices heard despite the heaviness of the topic and the collective trauma we are facing. Thank you to the CCPSA for its work on this issue thus far, especially the six Commissioners who supported the amendment to expand COPA's investigatory authority to Welcoming City Ordinance violations and who recently voted to prioritize this issue in 2026.

In response to the community's feedback and the steps taken by the CCPSA, the GAPA coalition has prepared a list of recommendations how the CCPSA can first, establish trust and move forward in community with those directly impacted by the actions of federal agents in Chicago, and second, advocate for policy reforms within CPD and City Hall that make all Chicagoans safer.

Finally, we must remember that ICE is still here and CPD's compliance with the Welcoming City Ordinance is not the gold standard, it is the bare minimum. It is well within the CCPSA's power to create stronger CPD policy and enhance existing policies to create a safer Chicago and protect the people against ongoing and future federal immigration enforcement.

CCPSA and the Community:

1. **Build a Community-Informed Agenda.** Work in good faith with District Councilors, GAPA, ECPS, and the larger Chicago community, to create an agenda for a thorough and substantive subject matter hearing that is separate from regular commission business. A subject matter hearing that aligns with community demands must include:
  - a. The presence of all 22 district commanders and the CPD superintendent so that they hear testimony from community members in their district and answer questions directly.
  - b. The opportunity for the community to submit questions for their commander and/or the superintendent in advance for the CCPSA to ask at the hearing.
  - c. A large, accessible venue with a parking lot
2. **Maintain Transparency into CPD Records.** According to CCPSA's January 16th statement, the Commission has submitted formal requests for information about CPD policies on training and compliance related to interactions with federal immigration

authorities. CPD's response must be made publicly available by the Commission. The Commission must provide community members with a reasonable amount of time to review the materials in advance of the subject matter hearing.

- a. This could include a dedicated page on the Commission's website that provides updates to the public on CPD's responses to the Commission's request, as well as linking any policies the public should be aware of. For example, the CPD Special Order S06-14-03 as it is one of the directives at issue here and should be made easily accessible to the public.
3. **Continue to Hear Directly from Impacted Communities.** Take proactive steps to respond to the abuses by ICE agents and protect community members, including but not limited to; holding regular special meetings to hear directly from the community, offering regular updates on ICE activity in the city, and/or providing community members with up-to-date legal guidance on how they can protect themselves and their neighbors.
4. **Share Public Safety Resources.** Add public safety resources to the CCPSA website, including but not limited to the list of Know Your Rights resources the GAPA coalition sent to the CCPSA on 12/18/2025. These resources have been separately attached in the same email as this letter.
5. **Stand with Chicagoans.** Release a statement to articulate in no uncertain terms the commission's strong alignment with the community against ICE. Similar to those released by elected leaders in cities under siege by ICE, including [Governor Pritzker and Mayor Johnson](#).
6. **Demand Investigations.** Call for an investigation into CPD's past collaboration with ICE.
  - a. The CCPSA should continue to support Alderperson Fuentes's amendment to expand COPA's power to investigate Welcoming City Ordinance violations as it proceeds to a City Council vote.
  - b. If there are issues with transparency and efficiency with COPA as the investigatory body, the CCPSA must commit to holding the new Chief Administrator of COPA accountable and if necessary develop policy changes to address any issues.
  - c. Per the community's public comments on January 8th, COPA should prioritize investigating alleged violations of the following provisions within Special Order S06-14-03:
    - i. Setting up traffic perimeters. S06-14-03(IV)(G)(6).
    - ii. Sharing access to data or databases with ICE. S06-14-03(IV)(E).
    - iii. Responding to calls from ICE where the request was, in effect, to assist in enforcement of civil immigration law. S06-14-03(V)(A-C)

## CCPSA and CPD:

At the January 8th listening session, the loudest call from the community was that CPD must not play any role in assisting federal immigration enforcement. CPD's responsibility is to protect Chicagoans. While GAPA recognizes the existence of intergovernmental constraints and CPD's stated goal of ensuring safety for all, unprecedented times call for bold and unprecedented responses. It has been repeatedly made clear that federal immigration officers themselves pose a significant public safety risk and that CPD has been involved in heightening that risk. Chicagoans need protection from that harm, not cooperation with it. The following recommendations are local policy propositions that we believe can begin to mitigate the harms our communities are facing:

1. **Ensure CPD Policies Related to Immigration Enforcement are Classified as General Orders.** Because protecting Chicagoans from federal agents must be a key practice in upholding CPD's core values, CCPSA and CPD must reclassify current Special Orders related to federal immigration enforcement as General Orders under G01-03, as Federal immigration enforcement in Chicago is an on-going occurrence and will continue to impact the community. Like all General Orders, these directives are critical, and related to the core values and functions of the CPD.
  - a. And, similar to the CCPSA's work regarding the Criminal Enterprise Information System, the Commission should draft a CPD policy stating that going forward any *new* CPD policies, orders, and directives that pertain to federal immigration enforcement be General Orders and therefore subject to Commission review and approval.
2. **Strengthen CPD Special Order S06-14-03.** Strengthen CPD Special Order S06-14-03, which prohibits CPD from assisting ICE, by either working to correctly reclassify this order as a General order and changed by the Commission, or by calling on CPD to make the following amendments:
  - a. Defining "assist" and "participate" to include any and all communication and action that would aid in carrying out an arrest or deportation, including but not limited to sharing non-public information, providing tactical support, perimeter control, or use of department equipment.
  - b. Expanding provision S06-14-03(IV)(G)(1) to prohibit officers from facilitating immigration agents' access to all Chicagoans, not just those in custody. For instance, guiding ICE through a neighborhood to reach a person they aim to arrest, deport, or question.
  - c. Expanding provision S06-14-03(IV)(G)(6) to add that CPD may not assist ICE in navigating or clearing areas to assist with enforcement.

- d. Adding a section that references disciplinary provisions for officers who violate this directive, including that all officers who violate this directive should be reported to ILETSB to evaluate whether the behavior warrants decertification.
  - e. Adding a section that requires CPD to report any and all contact with federal law enforcement weekly to the CCPSA, City Council, and any other appropriate body.
  - f. Since CPD is permitted to respond to the scene of ICE actions when there is a “contemporaneous public safety concern,” CPD must create a policy to protect Chicagoans from the public safety concerns created by ICE’s violent actions, which have included pulling people out of cars and deploying chemical weapons at short range and at people’s faces.
3. **Report and File Abductions by ICE.** Call on CPD to accept and file police reports of ICE abductions, as they already fit into the existing definition of “Unlawful Restraint” (720 ILCS 5/10-3) and turn them over to the State’s Attorney’s office to determine whether to prosecute. If any other person were to drag Chicagoans from their cars, homes, or the street and unlawfully detain them, they would be subject to arrest and prosecution. We must ensure that no one is above the law.

CCPSA and City Hall:

1. **Engage City Council.** GAPA understands that any amendments to the Welcoming City Ordinance must be made through City Council and not through the CCPSA; however, per section 2-80-050(p-r) powers of the ECPS ordinance, we call on the Commission to work with Chicago’s City Council to amend the Welcoming City Ordinance in accordance with any applicable changes listed above, especially any other further amendments necessary to clarify ambiguous language and to include any CPD Special/General orders that could be used as loopholes to liaise with federal law enforcement.

The GAPA coalition calls on the CCPSA to uphold both the spirit and intent of the ECPS ordinance, which was created to strengthen police accountability through civilian oversight. Public safety depends on public trust, and that trust requires CPD policies to be grounded in community needs and informed by public input. True collaboration is essential to building a safer Chicago, and all Commissioners must be fully committed to these principles.

In Solidarity,

The Grassroots Alliance for Police Accountability

- Good Kids Mad City Englewood, Southwest Organizing Project, Jewish Council on Urban Affairs, Community Renewal Society, Policing Project, Target Area Development Corporation, ONE Northside, and Impact for Equity