

Police Auditor Office

The Police Accountability System in Chicago is BROKEN

Police misconduct is a threat to neighborhoods of color in our city, but police are seldom held accountable:

- In 2014, African-American Chicagoans were **9.4 times** more likely than White Chicagoans to be shot by a police officer.
- Since its inception in 2007, the Independent Police Review Authority (IPRA) has recommended discipline for a meager **1.2 percent** of officers investigated for using excessive physical force.
- Since 2008, more than **10,000** complaints for excessive force have been filed by Chicagoans, yet only **4** officers have been dismissed for excessive force.
- Chicago has paid out nearly **\$500 million** dollars in settlements over police abuse and misconduct since 2004. In 2014, Chicago spent **\$54.2 million**—more than the budget for the offices of the Mayor, the City Treasurer, the City Council, the City Clerk, the Inspector General, the Police Board, and the Independent Police Review Authority combined.

We call on the Mayor and City Council to protect the public from abusive police practice by establishing a Police Auditor to create real transparency and accountability to our communities.

What Would a Police Auditor Office Do?

The primary responsibility of the Police Auditor would be to audit the three existing city agencies responsible for policing and police oversight to identify patterns and practices of inefficiency, misconduct, or bias:

- Audit practices and patterns of the **Chicago Police Department** for compliance with policies pertaining to excessive force, pedestrian and traffic stops, frisks and searches, and deadly force.
- Audit the **Independent Police Review Authority's** intake and investigation of citizen complaints against police officers and its disciplinary recommendations for sustained findings.
- Audit the procedures and decisions of the **Police Board** for fairness, transparency, and consistency.

Why Do We Need a Police Auditor?

- In order to make systemic changes to police oversight in Chicago, it is imperative to investigate histories and patterns of misconduct—not just individual complaints. Yet there is no city agency responsible for analyzing broad policing patterns and trends, or that can enforce changes in policies. An auditor would hold officers with histories of misconduct accountable, as well as the leadership, policies, and practices of the CPD.
- An auditor would improve hostile and violent relationships between the police and our communities by providing independent, external civilian oversight.
- An auditor could save the city millions of dollars in civil settlements by preventing police misconduct.

What Would a Police Auditor Office Need to Be Effective?

In order to provide real and effective oversight, the Police Auditor must have:

- **Independence**—the Chief Police Auditor must be selected by an independent third party.
- **Reform Power**—the ability to issue and enforce policy recommendations that would promote greater efficiency, fairness, and justice in our city's policing and police oversight system.
- **Authority and Access**—unfettered access to data and records from the police department and all police oversight agencies, and the power to subpoena witnesses.
- **Transparency and Accountability**—reports made available to the public on all audits and policy recommendations.

For more information on how to get involved, contact:

Ciera Walker | cwalker@communityrenewalsociety.org | (312) 673-3834
Ryan Wallace | rwallace@communityrenewalsociety.org | (312) 673-3852