

**Agreement in Principle
Between
The United States Department of Justice and the City of Chicago
Regarding the Chicago Police Department**

This Agreement in Principle (Agreement) between the United States and the City of Chicago (City) (collectively, Parties) reflects the Parties' commitment to work together and with the many communities that make up the City to ensure that the Chicago Police Department (CPD) delivers services in a manner that respects the rights of residents, increases trust between officers and the communities they serve, and promotes public and officer safety. Through this Agreement, the Parties commit to negotiate reforms over the coming months to ensure sustainable, constitutional, and effective policing. The Parties will seek input on these reforms from the various constituencies that make up Chicago, including residents, community groups, City leaders, local businesses, and CPD officers, to inform the negotiations.

The United States conducted its investigation pursuant to the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, 42 U.S.C. § 14141, the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, 42 U.S.C. § 3789d (Safe Streets Act), and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d (Title VI). The United States has concluded its investigation, finding reasonable cause to believe that CPD engages in a pattern or practice of unconstitutional use of force. This pattern or practice of unreasonable force, and its underlying causes, is described in the United States' report on its findings. The investigation was conducted with the full and open cooperation of the City and CPD. While the City does not concede that there is a pattern or practice of constitutional violations, it agrees that the United States' findings raise issues of importance to the City and the community and is committed to addressing the issues raised by the investigation. While the investigation was ongoing, the City took significant and important action to begin to address these issues. The United States commends the City and CPD for working cooperatively with the Department of Justice, recognizing the need for reform, and taking steps to begin the reform process. The Agreement to be negotiated is intended to build on these actions to ensure CPD personnel engage in practices that comply with the Constitution and laws of the United States, and in a manner that respects the rights of residents, promotes mutual confidence between the police and the community, and improves public and officer safety.

The Parties recognize that CPD officers and employees are CPD's greatest resource and that the vast majority of officers are committed to upholding the Constitution with honor and distinction while carrying out their important duties to ensure public safety. The Parties are committed to ensuring that police practices not only reflect constitutional principles, but the values of the communities served by CPD. To that end, the Agreement will include mechanisms that will facilitate full and ongoing participation of community members, including officers, in the implementation of the reform process. The Parties agree that it is critical to seek the input of CPD officers and their representatives, officer and supervisor unions, and the many communities that make up Chicago in developing an appropriate agreement.


Going forward, the Parties commit to negotiate in good faith to reach a comprehensive settlement in the form of a consent decree to be entered as an order of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois ("Settlement Agreement"). The Settlement Agreement will include reforms of CPD's use of force practices and accountability mechanisms, as well as its training, community policing, supervision, data collection, transparency, officer wellness systems and promotion practices. The Parties agree to seek to have the Settlement Agreement approved by and entered as a consent order in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, where venue is proper. An independent third-party monitor will be selected to assist in determining whether the Settlement Agreement is being implemented and whether the goals of the Settlement Agreement have been achieved. The Settlement Agreement will specify the selection and appointment process for the independent monitor. The Superintendent of CPD,


who is answerable to the Mayor of Chicago, will always retain full authority to run CPD in accordance with law.


The Parties recognize that the process of reform is complex and will require sustained effort. Reform will not occur overnight and will require clear goals and objectives. To this end, the Parties commit to work collaboratively and earnestly and with necessary urgency. The Parties agree to work to implement the Settlement Agreement for as long as necessary to ensure that they have achieved their goals for sustainable reform.


This Agreement in Principle is not intended to limit or expand the right of any person or entity seeking relief or pursuing legal action against the City, CPD, or any officer or employee thereof, for their conduct or the conduct of CPD officers. No person or entity is or is intended to be a third-party beneficiary of this Agreement in Principle for the purposes of any civil, criminal, or administrative action. The United States agrees to defer filing a lawsuit against the City related to its findings while the Parties engage in good faith negotiations to reach a Settlement Agreement. This Agreement does not otherwise limit or restrict the United States' ability to initiate a civil action under 42 U.S.C. § 14141, Title VI, or the Safe Streets Act, to conduct any investigation or bring any criminal charge, or to seek other enforcement action to protect the rights, privileges, or immunities of individuals that are secured or protected by the Constitution or laws of the United States. This Agreement does not constitute an admission for purposes of liability or otherwise by the City of Chicago under any federal, state or municipal law including, but not limited to, 42 U.S.C. § 1983.


Agreed to this 13th day of January, 2017



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