

# COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT OF POLICING: THE GAPA ORDINANCE

The GAPA ordinance creates

- 1 city-wide, civilian-led oversight body: the Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability, and
- 22 elected District Councils, one in each police district.

## Community Commission for Public Safety & Accountability:

- 7 civilian Commissioners  with relevant qualifications
- serve 4-year terms

The Commission has 4 key powers:

1. help select key leaders: Police Superintendent, COPA Chief, and Police Board members;
2. establish goals for CPD, COPA, and the Police Board and evaluate process
3. develop, review, and approve CPD and COPA policy
4. amplify community voice and engagement.

## COMMISSION SELECTION PROCESS:

Chicagoans vote and elect...

→ ...3 District Council members in each police district.



↓  
Each District Council selects 1 member to serve on the Nominating Committee.



The Nominating Committee decides which candidates to present to the Mayor to appoint, subject to City Council approval...



→ ...to serve as one of 7 Commissioners on the citywide Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability.



District Councils in each police district will have



3 elected members will

- create and carry out programs & initiatives to address community concerns and priorities
- nominate Commissioners and inform Commission priorities.

## DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTIONS:

Regular elections, overseen by Board of Elections:

- first election in Nov. 2020,
- then starting in 2023, all in February municipal elections

# The GAPA Ordinance: Big Picture

The GAPA ordinance captures thousands of community voices from across Chicago to create a structure for true civilian oversight of policing and community voice in police policy and accountability.

The GAPA ordinance creates a two-level system for civilian police oversight, with (1) a citywide Commission and then (2) a District Council in each police district:

## 1. Community Commission for Public Safety & Accountability

- 7 civilian Commissioners with relevant qualifications serving staggered 4-year terms
- Citywide Commission has 4 key powers:
  - help select key leaders: Police Superintendent, COPA Chief, and Police Board members
  - establish goals for CPD, COPA, and the Police Board and evaluate process
  - develop, review, and approve CPD and COPA policy
  - amplify community voice and engagement.

## 2. District Councils in each of 22 police districts

- 3 elected members in each district will
  - develop and implement programs & initiatives to address community concerns and priorities; and
  - nominate Commissioners and inform Commission priorities.

## ***Now Let's Zoom In: Elected District Council Members***

### Why are District Councils transformational?

Because they

- create a new and different kind of space that is community owned and run, not controlled by CPD or the City
- welcome and amplify the voices of people who have not been included in CPD-controlled policing spaces
- channel community concerns and priorities to the citywide oversight Commission, for which District Council members nominate Commissioners

### What do District Council members do?

- work with their local police district to build trust, and to create and carry out community initiatives, including restorative justice programs
- pick who is on the citywide Commission that exercise strong oversight powers
- raise community concerns to the citywide Commission to address with COPA, CPD, and the Police Board
- shape and inform Commission priorities in police policy and accountability

### How many members are there? How are they picked?

- 3 elected District Council Members in each police district
- elected by the residents of the police district for four-year terms
- with the first elections in Nov. 2020

# So you want to be an elected District Council member...

## Why Should I Run for District Council?

Do you

- care deeply about making sure that community priorities drive policing programs and initiatives in your community?
- think it's critical to create a space that welcomes and amplifies the voices of people who have not been included in CPD-controlled policing spaces?
- have strong connections with your neighbors and relationships in your neighborhood?

## Do I Meet the Requirements?

Are you

- at least 18 years old, or will be by January 11, 2021?
- a resident of the district you're running in?
- registered to vote in the district you're running in?

AND you

- don't have a felony record; and
- have not been an employee of CPD, IPRA, COPA, or the Police Board in the last 3 years.

*If you answered yes to these questions, YOU should run for District Council!*

## What do I have to do to get on the ballot?

- file a statement of candidacy and other forms with the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners;
- collect the required number of signatures;
- and submit the petition for nomination with those signatures by the require deadline.

### IMPORTANT DATES:

- First day to start circulating nominating petitions: Tuesday, March 24, 2020
- First day to file nomination papers: Monday, June 15, 2020
- Last day to file nomination papers: Monday, June 22, 2020
- Election Day: Tuesday, November 3, 2020

WANT MORE  
INFORMATION?

Head to the Board of Elections website at  
<https://chicagoelections.gov/en/running-for-office.html>.