



OFFICE OF MAYOR RAHM EMANUEL
CITY OF CHICAGO

July 28, 2016

Joseph M. Ferguson
Inspector General
Office of the Inspector General
740 N. Sedgwick Street, Suite 200
Chicago, IL 60654

Dear Inspector General Ferguson,

This letter is in response to your recent Advisory Concerning the Independent Police Review Authority's Reporting of Use of Force Incidents, which voices concerns and objectives that are of the utmost importance to our office, and to all of Chicago. This administration shares the goals that are articulated in the Advisory, and fully embraces the recommendations it provides.

The Independent Police Review Authority (IPRA) is responding under separate cover regarding the data provided by that agency and the progress that has been made to improve the accuracy and accessibility of that data. However, as is noted in the Advisory, in order to provide the transparency and accountability that the public deserves, it is absolutely necessary to expand the scope of public reporting on the use of force by the Chicago Police Department (CPD) beyond the cases that are eventually investigated by IPRA.

We have discussed the issues raised in the Advisory with CPD, and CPD is committed to issuing public reports on use of force. The first report, which will cover the period of August 2016, will be released in September, and a second report covering September 2016 will be issued in October. Going forward, reports will be issued on a quarterly basis, with the report covering the fourth quarter of 2016 released in January.

As you are aware, the City is in the process of overhauling its police accountability structure. The ultimate structure for public safety oversight and accountability has not yet been finalized – it will be the product of the public input, federal recommendations, City Council hearings, and informed discussions that occur over the coming months. As such, the format and exact substance of CPD's use of force reporting may evolve as these reforms are implemented. However, we can say with confidence that there will be a clear designation of an agency responsible for producing comprehensive use of force reporting in line with the recommendations provided in the Advisory, and a system for appropriate checks and oversight of that reporting. We anticipate the reporting obligation will remain with CPD, and consistent with the report of the Police Accountability Task Force, that oversight of that reporting will be undertaken by a new community safety oversight board, with the ability to audit that reporting vested in the office of the public safety inspector general. We commit that a clear mandate based on best practices in use of force reporting will be given to the responsible agencies, and sufficient resources will be allocated to fulfill that mandate and to ensure that this information is fully accessible.

The importance of accurate and robust use of force reporting in the broader picture of public safety reform cannot be underestimated, and we appreciate the OIG's attention to this critical issue. Thank you again for this Advisory, and please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eileen Mitchell". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Eileen Mitchell
Chief of Staff
Office of the Mayor