CITY OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Public Safety Annual Plan 2027

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I | Vision

The Public Safety section of the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) works to improve the effectiveness, accountability, and transparency of the Chicago Police Department (CPD) and Chicago's police accountability agencies, and to support the critical relationship between CPD and the communities it serves. The Public Safety section does this by conducting independent and objective evaluations, inspections, and reviews of the operations of CPD, the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA), the Police Board, and the Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability (CCPSA). These reviews are designed to promote constitutional, community-based policing, as well as a transparent, accessible, and fair system for police accountability and discipline.

II | Project Prioritization

Each year, the Public Safety section identifies areas of policing and police oversight for review and evaluation. By ordinance, the Public Safety section's inquiries are focused on the policies, practices, programs, procedures, and trainings of CPD, COPA, and the Police Board, with respect to constitutional policing, discipline, use of force, and CPD's integrity, transparency, and relationship with City residents. Additionally, the Public Safety section is charged with studying police disciplinary investigations and hearings, including examining the fairness and consistency of discipline and whether individual misconduct investigations are complete, thorough, objective, and fair.[1]

Informed by specific obligations derived from its ordinance, coordination with stakeholders, input from CPD members and members of the public, and institutional knowledge of public safety challenges in Chicago, the Public Safety section considers the following priorities to guide its work:

1. Operational Competence - Improving CPD's administrative, managerial, and operational competencies to render it more effective in the performance of its critical public safety functions and more efficient in its administration and use of resources.
2. Constitutional Policing - Ensuring that Chicagoans' constitutional and civil rights are sufficiently and equitably protected in all aspects of public safety operations.
3. Discipline and Accountability - Ensuring transparency, diligence, fairness, consistency, and timeliness in the police discipline and accountability system.
4. Community Relations – Understanding CPD's relationship and engagement with the public to develop and maintain community trust in support of its policing efforts.
5. Officer Wellness and Support – Ensuring CPD members are trained, equipped, and supported to carry out critical law enforcement functions.
6. Response to Criminal Activity – Improving CPD's performance related to its core policing functions in response to criminal activity, including responding to calls for service and the investigation of reported crimes.
7. Civil Litigation and Settlements – Understanding risks to the City based on civil judgments and settlements involving CPD members.

[1] MCC § 2-56-230.

III | Proposed Projects for 2027

The following project descriptions detail proposed Public Safety evaluations and reviews to be conducted in 2027.

1. CPD Misconduct Investigations

Pursuant to MCC 2-56-230(a), OIG may analyze and evaluate all closed police misconduct investigations. In this review, OIG will evaluate and identify trends in police misconduct investigations conducted by CPD's Bureau of Internal Affairs (BIA) and the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA), including by allegation type, case findings, and length of investigation. Further, OIG will track and report concerns regarding the quality of the investigations as well as patterns of behavior identified through its review.

2. Application of Discipline for CPD Members

Pursuant to MCC 2-56-230(f), OIG may audit all sustained findings of police misconduct investigations to determine if final disciplinary decisions are consistently and fairly applied and fully carried out. OIG will examine the consistency of disciplinary penalties recommended by BIA and COPA, the result of disciplinary review processes on final penalties, identify patterns in grievance outcomes including arbitration decisions, and summarize mediation agreement outcomes.

3. Evidence and Recovered Property Section

CPD's Evidence and Recovered Property Section (ERPS) receives, stores, and disposes of all inventoried property that comes into the Department's possession.[2] ERPS is responsible for securely storing, logging, and tracking items such as firearms, narcotics, money, and general property. Additionally, ERPS is charged with returning recovered property to its rightful owner or the destruction of the item in adherence with Department policies. OIG will conduct an audit to determine whether ERPS practices comply with internal policies, adhere to Illinois law, and preserve individuals' constitutional rights.

4. Harassment in CPD's Academy

CPD's training academy serves as a foundational entry point into the Department and its organizational culture. State and federal Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) laws, CPD policy, and the MCC prohibit discrimination against protected classes and retaliation against individuals who have allegedly experienced discrimination or sexual harassment. This review will analyze CPD's controls to ensure safe reporting channels that aim to prevent retaliation and its investigation of EEO allegations made by CPD members. Additionally, OIG will examine the experience of recruits in CPD's Academy and CPD's investigative practices regarding harassment and discrimination allegations made by recruits.

[2] Except for animals, automobiles, perishable items, and flammable chemicals, liquids, or gases.
Chicago Police Department, General Order, "G01-02-05: Organization and Functions of the Bureau of Detectives," February 04, 2026, accessed October 22, 2026, https://directives.chicagopolice.org/#directive/public/6504.

5. 911 Call Dispatch and Backlogs (RAPs)

When individuals call 911 for police service in Chicago, the Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC) dispatchers assign available CPD units based on the call's priority. If no CPD vehicles in a District are available and the allotted time to dispatch units to the call has passed, the call is considered a Radio Assignment Pending, or RAP. Dispatchers must follow procedures to alert their OEMC supervisors and the CPD field supervisors and make radio announcements to locate potentially available units. This evaluation will examine how often RAPs occur by District and call type in addition to average wait times for callers during RAPs. Further, OIG will examine CPD and OEMC compliance with RAP procedures and identify factors contributing to the occurrence of RAPs (e.g., call volume, staffing, dispatch and response procedures, or internal controls).

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IV | Current Projects

The following project descriptions detail Public Safety evaluations currently in progress, with completion anticipated later in 2026 or in 2027.

1. CPD's Response to Intimate Partner Violence by Members

OIG conducted a comprehensive review of how the Chicago Police Department responds to intimate partner violence (IPV) involving its members. This evaluation seeks to determine how the Department proactively addresses IPV concerns, how it responds to incidents or reports of IPV among its members, and the outcomes of CPD's disciplinary and non-disciplinary interventions.

2. Officer Retention

In recent years, law enforcement agencies across the country, including CPD, have struggled to balance employee departures with hiring practices to maintain adequate sworn staffing levels. OIG is evaluating the Department's retention strategies to understand the impact of officer attrition, determine whether CPD is taking effective steps to retain its sworn workforce, and identify barriers to officer retention.

3. Tactical Review and Evaluation Division

The Tactical Review and Evaluation Division (TRED) reviews and analyzes CPD members' use of force incidents, firearm pointing incidents, foot pursuits, and search warrants to identify any deficiencies which may warrant further attention from the Department. This review evaluates TRED's incident reviews and recommendations and its impact.

4. Field Training Officer Selection and Review

CPD's Field Training Officers (FTOs) are responsible for providing Probationary Police Officers with effective field training and instilling the guiding principles of safe and lawful policing. In this review, OIG will describe CPD's process for recruiting, selecting, and removing FTOs, evaluate how CPD monitors FTOs' performance and conduct, and determine how members' disciplinary histories impact their position as FTOs.

5. Initial Review of CCPSA Operations

The Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability (CCPSA) is a civilian body established in 2021 to provide the community with a larger role in policing oversight within Chicago. OIG is evaluating CCPSA's adherence to its own policies and governing documents as well as its execution of duties laid out in its establishing ordinance. This review may examine whether the Commission fulfills its statutory responsibilities related to public meetings, community engagement, reporting, appointments and oversight, and policy development and review.

6. CPD Overtime

Each year, CPD's overtime spending far exceeds its budgeted amount. In recent years, CPD has made changes to its technology and processes and has seen a decline in overall overtime spending. In this project, OIG's Public Safety and Audit and Program Review sections are examining factors contributing to overtime expenses and the Department's controls for managing and monitoring overtime use, including to prevent fraud, waste, abuse, and minimize officer fatigue.

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The City of Chicago Office of Inspector General is an independent, nonpartisan oversight agency whose mission is to promote economy, efficiency, effectiveness, and integrity in the administration of programs and operations of City government.

OIG's authority to produce reports of its findings and recommendations is established in the City of Chicago Municipal Code §§ 2-56-030(d), -035(c), -110, -230, and -240.

For further information about this report, please contact the City of Chicago Office of Inspector General, 231 S. LaSalle St., 12th Floor, Chicago, IL 60604, or visit our website at igchicago.org.

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