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## FOR THE THIRD TIME IN 14 YEARS, CHICAGO NEEDS TO OVERHAUL ITS POLICE OVERSIGHT SYSTEM.

WHAT CAN OUR PAST ATTEMPTS AT POLICE REFORM TELL US ABOUT WHAT THE CITY WILL NEED IN THE FUTRE?

### OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

**ACRONYM** CONVENED

#### **OPS** 1974

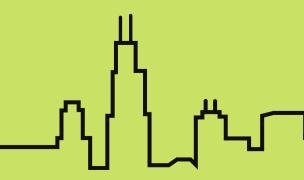
BEFORE OPS, THE CHICAGO
POLICE DEPARTMENT (CPD)
INTERNALLY INVESTIGATED
POLICE MISCONDUCT, BUT A
BLUE RIBBON PANEL FOUND
THAT "COMPLAINTS FROM
CITIZENS OF ABUSIVE CONDUCT
BY POLICE ARE ALMOST
UNIVERSALLY REJECTED BY THE
POLICE DEPARTMENTS" AND
RECOMMENDED THE CREATION
OF AN "INDEPENDENT" OPS.

OPS WAS PART OF THE CPD. ITS CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR WAS APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR AND WORKED UNDER THE POLICE SUPERINTENDENT.

DISMANTLED 2007

DESPITE CLAIMING TO BE INDEPENDENT, OPS' DIRECT TIES TO THE CPD INEVITABLY LED THE OPS TO BE BIASED IN FAVOR OF THE POLICE THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO BE INVESTIGATING.

OPS'S ISSUES CAME TO A
HEAD IN 2006, WHEN SPECIAL
PROSECUTORS RELEASED A 292
PAGE REPORT DETAILING THE
FULL EXTENT OF THE TORTURE
CONDUCTED BY THE CPD UNDER POLICE COMMANDER JON BURGE.



### INDEPENDENT POLICE REVIEW **AUTHORITY**

#### **IPRA** 2007

THE INDEPENDENT POLICE REVIEW AUTHORITY (IPRA) WAS ESTABLISHED IN 2007.

OTHER THAN THE NAME CHANGE, IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW THE IPRA DIFFERED FROM THE OPS. IPRA'S CHIEF FROM THE OPS. IPRA'S CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR WAS STILL APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR AND IT INHERITED THE EXACT SAME STAFF FROM OPS. IPRA,

LIKE ITS PREDECESSOR, RARELY RECOMMEND DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST POLICE

#### 2017

IPRA'S FAILURES CAME TO THE FOREFRONT AFTER 17 YEAR OLD LAQUAN MCDONALD WAS SHOT 16 TIMES BY CHICAGO POLICE OFFICER JASON VAN DYKE ON OCTOBER 20, 2014.

THE CITY OF CHICAGO—IPRA—
REFUSED TO PUBLICLY RELEASE
POLICE DASHCAM FOOTAGE,
BUT WAS EVENTUALLY ORDERED
TO DO SO BY A JUDGE. FORMER
MAYOR RAHM EMMANUEL
APPOINTED A "POLICE
ACCOUNTABILITY TASK FORCE"
TO INVESTIGATE THE PROBLEMS
IN THE CPD. THE TASK FORCE
FOUND THAT IPRA "LACK[ED]
TRUE INDEPENDENCE" AND
WAS "NOT HELD ACCOUNTABLE
FOR [ITS] WORK."

IPRA HAD NOT INVESTIGATED 40% OF COMPLAINTS FILED -AND ITS "DISCIPLINARY RECOMMENDATIONS" WERE "REDUCED OR ELIMINATED...IN 73% OF CASES" IT DID INVESTIGATE.

### CIVILIAN OFFICE OF POLICE **ACCOUNTABILITY**

#### **COPA** 2017

THE POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY
TASK FORCE CONCLUDED THAT
IPRA SHOULD BE REPLACED "WITH
A NEW AND FULLY TRANSPARENT
AND ACCOUNTABLE CIVILIAN
POLICE INVESTIGATIVE AGENCY."
IN OCTOBER 2016, THE CITY
COUNCIL VOTED TO REPLACE THE
IPRA WITH THE CIVILIAN OFFICE
OF POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY
(COPA) (COPA).

COPA IS ABLE TO ACT INDEPENDENTLY, AS IT "HAS EXPLICIT ACCESS TO ALL INFORMATION IN THE POSSESSION OF THE POLICE."

#### **CURRENT**

THE CREATION OF COPA DID NOT THE CREATION OF COPA DID NOT CREATE A NEW FUNCTION OF POLICE OVERSIGHT. IT HAS THE SAME GENERAL JURISDICTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES AS IPRA, AND WITH COPA'S CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR IS STILL APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR. SOME HAVE RAISED CONCERN ABOUT SIMILARITIES BETWEEN COPA AND IPRA RELATED TO AN INDIRECT INFLUENCE FROM THE POLICE IT INVESTIGATES.

THE CITY OF CHICAGO
IS DOING COPA NO FAVORS,
AS IT CONTINUES TO ALLOW
POLICE TO IGNORE REFORM
EFFORTS. IN OCTOBER 2020,
CPD CONSULTED WITH A
USE OF FORCE COMMUNITY
WORKING GROUP, INITIATED
BY THE MAYOR AND THE
POLICE SUPERINTENDENT.
OUT OF THE GROUP'S
155 RECOMMENDATIONS,
CPD ACCEPTED JUST 5.