



Press Release

For Immediate Release
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Chicago City Council Passes Transformative Police Oversight Plan Driven by Community Coalition

Chicago, IL – July 21, 2021– The Chicago City Council today passed a transformative ordinance to empower Chicago communities in building public safety in Chicago. The Empowering Communities for Public Safety (ECPS) ordinance represents many years of work by the Grassroots Alliance for Police Accountability (GAPA) and Chicago Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression (CAARPR), two broad-based community coalitions. Thousands of people and more than 100 community groups took part in creating the ordinance. BPI’s Police Accountability team has provided extensive support to the GAPA coalition since the coalition came together more than five years ago.

The ordinance will create a citywide community oversight commission with the power to bring about systemic police reform. The commission will play a key role in selecting key leaders, including the Chicago Police Superintendent; set strategic goals and priorities for the Chicago Police Department; and set police department policy—helping to ensure those police department policies and priorities are rooted in expert knowledge about best practices and grounded in the needs and values of the community.

The ordinance will also create elected, three-member “District Councils” in each of the city’s police districts. District Councils will work to bring together police department district leadership and community members to set local priorities for the district and work together to increase safety and accountability.

“This is an extraordinary victory for our community partners and for the City of Chicago,” said Adam Gross, Director of BPI’s Police Accountability program. “The ordinance puts community at the heart of police reform efforts. It will help build relationships and trust between the police and the communities they serve and increase accountability, and that will make all of us—community residents and police officers—safer and healthier.”

“Policing in Chicago has been broken because the people have had no voice in shaping public safety. ECPS changes that and gives the power back where it belongs: the community,” said Desmon Yancy, Director of Community Organizing at the Inner-city Muslim Action Network, a coalition partner of GAPA.

Learn more about the ordinance

About BPI

BPI is an innovative public interest law and policy center that advocates for racial and economic justice through its four program areas: Housing, Justice Reform, Police Accountability, and Early Learning. For over 50 years, BPI has been fighting for justice in Chicago and Illinois. Through partnerships with community-based organizations, members of directly impacted groups, government agencies, foundations, and academic institutions, BPI works to change policy that affects people impacted by racial and economic injustice, utilizing a combination of legal and policy research, organizing, advocacy, and litigation.

[Read more about BPI's Police Accountability program.](#)

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