The proposed Chicago Police Department (CPD) General Order on Religious Interactions (G02-01-05) fails to sufficiently protect Chicago’s religious communities from biased and discriminatory police practices. The CPD should rescind this draft and issue a new policy that follows the law. The new policy must recognize that any police practice that substantially burdens an individual’s religious expression (such as wearing religious clothing or head coverings) must be justified by a compelling governmental interest.

At a minimum, the new policy must:

* Stop Chicago police from targeting communities, events, people, and/or places based on religion or perceived membership in a religious group.
* Require a compelling governmental interest to justify an officer’s decision to take away anyone’s religious clothing, head covering, or religious objects such as prayer books.
* Require Chicago police to accommodate a request that any removal of a person’s religious clothing or head covering occurs in private.
* If absolutely necessary to take photos of someone without their customary religious clothing or head covering, require Chicago police to accommodate a request that a same-gender officer takes those photos in private.
* Require Chicago police to keep such uncovered photos confidential.
* Adequately train Chicago police to understand and respect a variety of religious traditions and the diversity of practice within those traditions.
* Make clear that an officer’s failure to follow the policy may result in discipline.