**Coalition Comment on S03-05 In-Car Video Systems**

**CPD’s draft policy on “In-Car Video Systems” (S03-05) should be changed so officers record all conversations, including briefings with a supervisor, after they shoot at or kill a community member.**

Section V.L.2 of S03-05 instructs officers to turn off their in-car cameras during a “public safety briefing for incidents involving a firearms discharge and/or an officer-involved death….” This is bad policy that will give officers an opportunity to collude, cover up, and evade accountability. Telling officers to turn off their in-car cameras so quickly after an officer shooting also contravenes the recommendations of the Department of Justice and the spirit of the Illinois Law Enforcement Officer-Worn Body Camera Act (“BWC Act”).

* + The Department of Justice’s (“DOJ”) 2017 report criticized Chicago’s investigations into officer shootings because Chicago’s “procedures …allow for ample opportunity for collusion among officers … .” DOJ Report at 47. The DOJ specifically criticized the practice of allowing officers who have shot someone “to engage in private, unrecorded conversations with the commander, supervising sergeants, detectives, and union staff” because of the likelihood of “inadvertent or intentional conflating of recollections” and the “possibility of officer collusion…” *Id.* at 57.
  + DOJ specifically recommended that Chicago should require recording of interviews of involved officers directly after a shooting. *Id.* at 152-53.
  + But Section V.L.2. of the Policy allows collusion by requiring officers to answer “public safety briefing” questions off-camera. According to CPD’s policy titled “Firearm Discharge and Officer-Involved Death Incident Response and Investigation” (General Order G03-06), Section VI.B.6, those questions include details related to the investigation, including “whether weapons were discharged,” “the identification and location of any victims, offenders, witnesses, or evidence,” and “information about any involved vehicles….” These questions should be answered on camera.
  + Permitting officers and supervisors to agree on a story off-camera will undermine accountability and the public’s faith in the accuracy and impartiality of the investigation.
  + The BWC Act also requires that officers keep their body-worn cameras on during all “law enforcement-related encounters or activities,” including “investigations,” 50 ILCS 706/10-10. It does not have any exception for a so-called “public safety briefing” following a shooting. Although the BWC Act does not directly apply to in-car video cameras, CPD should use the same policies for both BWC and in-car cameras for the sake of consistency. This means that officers should be required to keep their BWC and in-car cameras on throughout the “public safety briefing” after an officer shoots or kills someone.