**ACLU-IL’s Public Comment on CPD’s Crisis Intervention Team Program Policy**

Submitted July 14, 2024

**The Community Coalition submitted comments on Special Order 05.14 in June 2022, which have still not been addressed. The changes in this revision are limited to only the issue of the use of CIT certified officers and the implementation plan for the number of officers required. While important issues, much more needs to be done for this policy to meet the demands of the Consent Decree and to keep people in crisis safe from the harm that too often results from police responses.**

* The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Program’s objective and protocols must be revised to implement the Consent Decree requirement to “reduc[e] the need for individuals in crisis to have further involvement with the criminal justice system.”
* CPD must train officers on how to reduce the involvement of individuals in crisis with the criminal justice system, collect data about this effort, and evaluate whether it is meeting this critical objective.
* The CIT Program needs to go beyond de-escalation and after-the-fact referrals. CPD must change its own historical culture—one that values arrests and charges as the signs of productivity—to encourage other outcomes that benefit people in crisis.
* The CIT Program objectives and outcomes must be assessed by the reduction in the use of force and arrests, as well as referrals to mental health providers.
* The CIT policy should strengthen the requirements for Certified CIT Officer eligibility, training, and evaluation—all of which remain far too low for the difficulty and sensitivity of CIT assignments.
* Regular performance evaluations of Certified CIT Officers should include consideration of accumulated complaints or disciplinary history (since initial designation); coping with CIT duties and unique stressors; and demonstrated commitment to CIT objectives. The assessment should also have a personal self-assessment component by the officer.
* The CIT policy should provide a framework for meaningful community engagement.
* The CIT policy lists community engagement among the responsibilities of the program sections (the Coordinator, the Training Section, CIT DOCs, and District Commanders) but does not set forth even minimum requirements—much less the more robust community engagement recommended by the Independent Monitoring Team or by the City’s own Advisory Committee in 2019—to ensure that community engagement occurs in a meaningful way that considers diverse voices of the impacted communities.