**TELL CHICAGO POLICE THEIR NEW MISCONDUCT POLICY DOES NOT ENSURE ACCOUNTABILITY**

The Chicago Police Department is currently accepting public comments on Special Order S08-01-01. This Special Order provides guidelines for the Bureau of Internal Affairs (BIA) process for investigating and disciplining officers who break the law or violate Department rules. The proposed Special Order does not hold officers accountable for misconduct.

**Make your voice heard!** Go to the CPD policy comment portal and share your own thoughts or simply copy and paste the message below. **The deadline to submit comments is Tuesday, March 29, 2022.**

**Submit Comment here (at the bottom of the page):** <https://home.chicagopolice.org/reform/policy-review/conducting-log-number-investigations-policy-draft/>

**Sample Comment:**

The proposed Chicago Police Department (CPD) Special Order S08-01-01 does not hold officers accountable for breaking the law or violating Department rules.

Special Order S08-01-01 and other similar policies must be updated based on these points:

* CPD must create one clear Bureau of Internal Affairs (BIA) policy. Too many different misconduct policies make it hard for officers and the public to understand the investigation and disciplinary process.

* The Civilian Office of Police Accountability—not CPD’s BIA—should investigate sexual misconduct by Chicago police.
* Support people who come forward about officer misconduct by having specially trained staff explain the complaint and investigation process. Staff must provide regular updates and, as needed, refer people to supportive services, such as social workers or mental health professionals.
* A BIA investigator must not end a misconduct investigation until they have at least reviewed evidence such as body camera recordings. They must also interview the accused officer, any officer witnesses, any officers otherwise involved in the incident, and the person who complained (if that person wants to be interviewed).
* Before being interviewed or giving a statement, officers accused of misconduct should get only a general overview of the allegations against them—not detailed allegations or all the evidence. Remove the loophole that accused officers can look at evidence before their interviews or statements if they are “completing incident reports or other documentation.”
* Do not give the accused officer the name of the person accusing them of misconduct before the officer’s interview or statement.
* Ban officers from talking to each other about a complaint before all accused, involved, and witness officers have been interviewed or given a statement.
* Explicitly clarify that no one must file a sworn affidavit for complaints against any *nonsupervisory* CPD member. Also clarify that under Illinois law, no one will have to file a sworn affidavit for complaints against any *supervisory* CPD member after June 30, 2022, when the union contract for these officers is scheduled to expire.
* When an officer changes their story or leaves out important facts, the investigators must decide whether the officer has lied and must consider recommending discipline for lying.
* Investigators must consider the complete history of complaints and relevant investigative files about the accused officer, regardless of the outcomes of those older complaints and investigations.
* Respect people’s desire to remain anonymous if they do not want to put their name on a complaint.
* Require prompt preliminary investigations and interviews of accused, involved, and witness officers. Limit requests to delay investigations.
* Continue BIA investigations even when there is a separate criminal investigation about the same misconduct.
* Make it hard to override the disciplinary recommendations of BIA investigators. Require the Superintendent to explain the reasons for overriding a recommendation in writing within 30 days. The reasons should be published online right away.
* Give Cook County and federal prosecutors evidence undermining officers’ credibility as witnesses in criminal cases, and give the same evidence to the criminal defendants the officers testified against. Specify the process for providing this evidence.
* Record all officer interviews during misconduct investigations—whether or not the officers are interviewed in person.
* CPD must meaningfully engage with the community on police misconduct policies.