

**ANDRE VASQUEZ**

ALDERMAN, 40TH WARD

5620 NORTH WESTERN AVENUE

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60659

PHONE: 773-654-1867

EMAIL: WARD40@CITYOFCHICAGO.ORG

WEBSITE: WWW.40THWARD.ORG



**CITY OF CHICAGO  
CITY COUNCIL**

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COUNCIL CHAMBER  
CITY HALL, ROOM 34  
121 NORTH LASALLE STREET  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602  
PHONE: 312-744-6858

**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**

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(VICE-CHAIRMAN)

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TRANSPORTATION AND THE PUBLIC WAY

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COMMITTEES AND RULES

September 21, 2020

**To Alderman Christopher Taliaferro,**

**Honorable Chairman of the Public Safety Committee,**

I am writing this letter as a formal request that you schedule a hearing on Civilian Oversight and Police Accountability as soon as possible and no later than the December City Council Meeting, scheduled for December 16th, 2020. Many of us have been asking for over a year to hold a hearing on the two police accountability ordinances so that the legislative body can deliberate, debate, and ultimately vote on the two pieces of legislation, CPAC and GAPA.

Before I took office, many whom I now call colleagues worked in coalition with advocacy groups to go into the communities of our city and then draft prescriptive solutions. Upon taking office, myself and many of the newly elected members of the Council came in with the goal of making this part of our public discourse. It is time for that conversation to happen. Regardless of where we individually stand on this issue, we all put the safety of our constituents as the top priority. We respect each other as colleagues to have this conversation and our city demands it.

It is my firm belief that in order to build any semblance of trust between the communities that are most impacted by police violence and those entrusted with their safety, we need a system that holds the bad actors accountable. The people of Chicago deserve a Civilian Oversight and Police Accountability Commission that is elected by the public. The design of our current system requires it as intended, according to the Office of the Inspector General, and the fact that we have not had this conversation after the murder of George Floyd that led to the civil unrest across the nation is truly shameful.

I am asking that we hold a hearing rather than having members of the City Council calling for a Special Meeting of the body to take up these matters. We owe it to the public safety of our city, especially during these times.

Sincerely,

Alderman Andre Vasquez  
Alderman – 40<sup>th</sup> Ward

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