

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION**

STATE OF ILLINOIS,

Plaintiff,

v.

CITY OF CHICAGO,

Defendant.

Case No. 17-cv-6260

Judge Robert M. Dow, Jr.

COMMUNITY SURVEY

The Independent Monitor Margaret Hickey and the Independent Monitoring Team submit the attached Community Survey Report under ¶¶645–51 of the Consent Decree. The report presents results from a community survey that asked about how Chicago residents (Chicagoans) feel about and interact with the Chicago Police Department (CPD). The survey was conducted between November 2019 and February 2020 by researchers from the University of Illinois at Chicago and the University of Chicago. The survey is scientifically valid because large, representative samples of Chicagoans participated. Specifically, we received survey responses from 1,053 randomly selected Chicagoans across races, plus an additional 346 responses from young Black men between the ages of 18 and 25—the group that has the most frequent interactions with the CPD.

It is significant that Chicagoans responded to the community survey between November 2019 and February 2020—*before* the spread of COVID-19, *before* the ensuing economic crisis, and *before* the nationwide protests and unrest that have followed the tragic death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota. As a result, the survey findings provide a baseline from which to examine the state of police-community relations in Chicago since these events. The Independent Monitoring Team will continue to conduct surveys every other year during the life of the Consent Decree. *See* ¶645.

Some observations stand out from this first survey and demand attention by the City, the CPD, and other stakeholders in policing:

Different races and ethnicities consistently responded differently to the survey questions. Chicagoans’ perceptions of and experiences with the CPD are strongly associated with their race or ethnicity. On average, Chicagoans rated the CPD more positively than negatively, but perceptions varied dramatically by racial group, and only a third of questions had a majority positive rating from Chicagoans. In general, White Chicagoans responded most positively, followed by Latino Chicagoans, Black Chicagoans, and young Black men ages 18–25, who responded the least

positively.¹ For example, over three-quarters of White Chicagoans (77%) and about two-thirds of Latino Chicagoans (67%) indicated that they think the CPD makes their neighborhoods “more safe” or “a lot more safe,” yet fewer than half of Black Chicagoans (47%) and one-third of Young Black men ages 18–25 (34%) felt the same.²

There was an alarming disparity between responses regarding CPD interactions with the population as a whole and its interactions with young Black men ages 18–25. On average, young Black men ages 18–25 rated the CPD both less positively and more negatively on nearly all 54 ratings questions that asked respondents to rate the CPD by selecting a negative, neutral, or positive response.

There was a perceived lack of fairness in how the CPD treats specific populations identified by the Consent Decree. *See* ¶646. Fewer than half of Chicagoans rated the CPD as doing a “good” or “very good” job of giving fair treatment to religious minorities (38%), people with disabilities (48%), members of the LGBTQI community (39%), Native American Chicagoans (33%), people with mental health conditions (29%), and people experiencing homelessness (26%).³

People reported a large deficit of trust in the CPD in general. Chicagoans also gave the CPD relatively low ratings in terms of trustworthiness and procedural justice. Only about half of Chicagoans felt that Chicago police officers are trustworthy. Past research indicates that officers

¹ For the purposes of this survey, we used the categories from the United States Census Bureau. *See About Race*, US Census Bureau (last revised, August 24, 2020), <https://www.census.gov/topics/population/race/about.html>. Specifically, respondents were given the following choices to answer the question, “What is your race?”: White; African American or Black; Asian or Pacific Islander; Native American or American Indian; Other. Chicagoans who responded to the survey and identified as another race or identity are included in the Chicagoans statistics, but margins of error are too large to present statistics for other groups. In the sample of young Black men ages 18–25, there were 26 respondents who identify as “Black or African American” and identify as part of another racial or ethnic group. Any respondent who selected “Black or African American” for race was included in this sample.

In the report, we chose to refer to particular groups consistently, such as Black Chicagoans, Latino Chicagoans, and White Chicagoans. We believe that these terms most accurately account for the targeted population for the survey: Chicagoans. We recognize that there are other commonly used terms, such as “African Americans,” but we believe that Black Chicagoans is a more inclusive term because it focuses on presence in Chicago rather than nationality. Likewise, we understand that some people may prefer “Latinx” or “Hispanic” to “Latino.” For the purposes of this survey, we followed the Consent Decree and the United States Census Bureau, as referenced above. *See* ¶4; *About Race*, US Census Bureau.

² Likewise, majorities of White Chicagoans (94%), Latino Chicagoans (82%), Black Chicagoans (77%), and young Black men ages 18–25 (59%) said that they would be “likely” or “very likely” to call to report a crime in their neighborhoods. Following the same trend, 91% of White Chicagoans, 69% of Latino Chicagoans, 64% of Black Chicagoans, and 42% of young Black men ages 18–25 said that they would be “likely” or “very likely” to work with the CPD to identify a person who committed a crime in their neighborhood.

³ The Independent Monitoring Team anticipated the limitations of a broad based population survey to effectively capture the perspectives of the specific populations mentioned in the Consent Decree, including “individuals who are people of color, LGBTQI, in crisis, youth, members of religious minorities, or have disabilities.” ¶646. During the off years of the community surveys, the Independent Monitoring Team plans to conduct smaller, qualitative studies that are focused on these populations to provide additional data regarding their perceptions of and experiences with the CPD.

earn people’s trust based on officers’ behavior during encounters with Chicagoans, and only about half of Chicagoans gave the CPD “good” or “very good” ratings on treating people with dignity, respect, and fairness. Fewer than half of Chicagoans felt that the CPD uses the appropriate amount of force during interactions with Chicagoans.

There was widespread concern about CPD accountability. Chicagoans gave the CPD low ratings when it came to holding officers accountable and many reported fear of being harassed by the police in response to filing a complaint. Still, most Chicagoans said that they would file a complaint against the CPD if they had a reason to do so, but only about a quarter had confidence that the CPD would investigate it thoroughly.

The IMT will use these survey results to inform our monitoring work, and we also encourage the City and the CPD to use these findings as they seek to implement the necessary reforms. At this moment in history, when communities across the nation are demanding changes to policing, the findings of this survey give us additional insight into police-community relations in Chicago. The overarching implication of these survey results is that the CPD has serious work ahead to gain the trust and confidence of Chicagoans. The experiences of young Black men and their perceptions of the CPD continue to deserve special attention. Moving forward, we plan to take a closer look at their experiences, along with the experiences of other groups with high levels of police contact.

The path to change for the CPD is laid out in the Consent Decree, and this community survey underscores some key problems that must be addressed along the way. Significant organizational changes are needed to ensure that the CPD’s practices “prohibit discrimination on the basis of any protected class under federal, state, and local law” (§53); that the CPD is fully engaged with the community when making these changes (§52); and that police officers are properly trained, supervised, and held accountable for their behavior (§§419–565).

Dated August 26, 2020

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned attorney hereby certifies that, on August 26, 2020, she caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing **Community Survey** to be filed electronically with the Court's CM/ECF system, which caused an electronic copy of this filing to be served on counsel of record.

/s/Margaret A. Hickey

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