

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: November 18, 2009

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### Chicago Justice Project study results in proposed amendments to Chicago Police Board ordinance

(Chicago, Ill.) — Chicago aldermen will review amendments to the City's Police Board ordinance as a direct result of a 10-year Police Board study recently released by the Chicago Justice Project.

The study – available on the CJP web site ([www.chicagojustice.org](http://www.chicagojustice.org)) – examined the findings regarding 312 cases filed for review by the Police Board between 1999 and 2008. The Chicago Police Board is the Mayoral-appointed body given the task of making the final determination on police disciplinary matters.

After reviewing the study, chief sponsor Ald. Robert Fioretti (2<sup>nd</sup> Ward) drafted a revision to the Police Board ordinance that calls for:

- The individual votes of Police Board members to be posted on the Police Board web site within two business days, and remain there for at least two years; and
- The findings and decisions, including an explanation of the reasoning behind them – and even an explanation behind dissenting votes – to be posted on the Police Board web site within two business days, and remain there for at least two years.

In addition, several changes to the running of the Police Board are proposed, including:

- Considering any Board member who misses three Board meetings in any calendar year or fails to vote in 15 percent of Police Board votes in any calendar year to have resigned as a Board member unless they receive the written prior consent of the Police and Fire Committee;
- Requiring any Board member who misses two Board meetings in any calendar year or fails to vote in 15 percent of Police Board votes in any calendar year to forfeit one-sixth of any stipends due them for that year; and

- Limiting compensation of any kind to \$5,000 per year for board members and \$7,500 for the Chairman.

“The suggested changes in the ordinance are a direct result of our research, which uncovered the high rate of missed votes, as well as the fact that Police Board members are being compensated for their work,” said CJP Executive Director Tracy Siska. “CJP fully endorses these ordinance revisions.”

*The Chicago Justice Project (CJP) is an independent organization with the core mission of increasing public access to justice-related information, based on the guiding principle that access to accurate information is the foundation of any meaningful reform to the criminal justice system. Funded in part by The Ford Foundation, CJP projects and programs are designed to foster greater transparency and accountability. For interview requests please contact Jennifer Gordon (773) 983-1995.*