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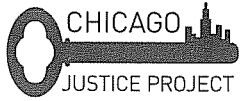
Date: October 27, 2009  
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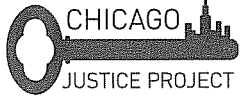
### Chicago Justice Project releases 10-year Chicago Police Board study; calls for more transparency with 5 recommendations

(Chicago, Ill.) — The Chicago Justice Project is set to release the findings of a 10-year study into the actions of the Chicago Police Board, the Mayoral-appointed body given the task of making the final determination on police disciplinary matters.

The study – available on the CJP web site ([www.chicagojustice.org](http://www.chicagojustice.org)) after 9 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 29 – examines the findings regarding 312 cases filed for review by the Police Board between 1999 and 2008. In its review of the Police Board's decisions, the Chicago Justice Project includes five recommendations for transparency, calling for:

- The Chicago City Council to amend the ordinance governing the Chicago Police Board's powers and responsibilities to mandate that all decisions of the Chicago Police Board include a written explanation of both the majority and dissenting votes;
- The Chicago Police Board to mandate that all documents that are made part of the public record in each case be submitted both in paper and digital format (whenever possible) to facilitate easier posting on the Board's web site;
- The Chicago City Council to amend the current ordinance establishing the Chicago Police Board and mandate that each board member be





allowed to miss no more than 10% of the votes during a single term without prior approval of the Chairman of the Police and Fire Committee of the Chicago City Council;

- The Chicago Police Board to be required to publish an annual report containing a summary of each case for which the Chicago Police Board overruled the recommendation of the Superintendent of the Chicago Police Department as well as the reasons associated with that decision; and
- The Police and Fire Committee of the Chicago City Council to convene a public hearing with the Chicago Police Board after reviewing its annual report, to discuss any legislative changes that need to take place to ensure that their oversight process is working fairly and properly, and take input from the public through questions and statements.

“The most important recommendation, where transparency is concerned, is for the Police Board to publish written explanations for its findings,” said CJP Executive Director Tracy Siska.

*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.*