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# **JOURNAL of the PROCEEDINGS of the CITY COUNCIL of the CITY of CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

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Special Meeting -- Wednesday, September 27, 2023

at 10:00 A.M.

(Council Chamber -- City Hall -- Chicago, Illinois)

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**OFFICIAL RECORD.**

**BRANDON JOHNSON**  
Mayor

**ANDREA M. VALENCIA**  
City Clerk

**Attendance At Meeting.**

*Present* -- The Honorable Brandon Johnson, Mayor, and Alderpersons La Spata, Hopkins, Dowell, Robinson, Yancy, Hall, Mitchell, Harris, Beale, Chico, Lee, Ramirez, Quinn, Gutiérrez, Lopez, Coleman, Moore, O'Shea, Taylor, Mosley, Rodríguez, Tabares, Scott, Sigcho-Lopez, Fuentes, Burnett, Ervin, Taliaferro, Cruz, Cardona, Waguespack, Rodríguez-Sánchez, Conway, Ramirez-Rosa, Mitts, Sposato, Nugent, Vasquez, Napolitano, Reilly, Knudsen, Lawson, Gardiner, Clay, Martin, Manaa-Hoppenworth, Hadden, Silverstein.

*Absent* -- Alderpersons Curtis, Villegas.

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**Call To Order.**

On Wednesday, September 27, 2023 at 10:00 A.M., the Honorable Samantha Nugent, President Pro Tempore, called the Council to order. The clerk called the roll of members and it was found that there were present at that time: Alderpersons Dowell, Lee, Ervin, Nugent, Napolitano, Reilly, Manaa-Hoppenworth -- 7.

President Pro Tempore Nugent stated that the meeting was unable to proceed due to the absence of a quorum.

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**Recess Taken.**

Thereupon, Alderperson Lee moved that the City Council *Recess* until 11:00 A.M. The motion *Prevailed* and the City Council *Stood in Recess*.

**Session Resumed After Recess.**

Following the recess, the Honorable Brandon Johnson, Mayor, called the City Council to order. The Honorable Andrea M. Valencia, City Clerk called the roll of members and it was found that there were present at that time: Alderpersons La Spata, Hopkins, Dowell, Robinson, Yancy, Hall, Mitchell, Harris, Beale, Chico, Lee, Ramirez, Quinn, Lopez, Moore, O'Shea, Taylor, Rodríguez, Tabares, Scott, Sigcho-Lopez, Fuentes, Burnett, Ervin, Taliaferro, Cruz, Cardona, Waguespack, Rodríguez-Sánchez, Conway, Ramirez-Rosa, Mitts, Sposato, Nugent, Vasquez, Napolitano, Reilly, Knudsen, Lawson, Gardiner, Clay, Martin, Manaa-Hoppenworth, Hadden, Silverstein -- 45.

Quorum present.

At this point in the proceedings, the Honorable Brandon Johnson, Mayor, informed the City Council that Alderperson Gutiérrez submitted a request pursuant to Rule 59 of the City Council's Rules of Order and Procedure, to attend the meeting remotely due to a family emergency.

Thereupon, on motion of Alderperson Lopez, the request by Alderperson Gutiérrez to attend the meeting remotely was *Accepted* by a viva voce vote, resulting in a quorum of 46 alderpersons.

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**Pledge Of Allegiance.**

Mayor Brandon Johnson led the City Council and assembled guests in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

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**Invocation.**

Reverend Dr. Kelly Faulstich, pastor of Resurrection Lutheran Church, opened the meeting with prayer.

9/27/2023

SPECIAL MEETING

3261

*Placed On File -- CALL FOR SPECIAL MEETING.*

[F2023-0004478]

The Honorable Andrea M. Valencia, City Clerk, informed the City Council that the following call for a special meeting was filed in her office on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 9:58 A.M.:

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

September 20, 2023.

Honorable Anna Valencia  
City Clerk  
City Hall, Room 107  
121 North LaSalle Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60602

DEAR MS. VALENCIA -- I hereby call a special meeting of the City Council of the City of Chicago, to be convened at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, September 27, 2023, in the City Council Chamber in City Hall, for the sole purpose of receiving and considering for final passage a committee report regarding the confirmation of the Superintendent of Police and for no other purpose whatsoever.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) BRANDON JOHNSON,  
*Mayor.*

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PUBLIC COMMENT.

In accordance with the City Council's Rules of Order and Procedure, the following members of the general public addressed the City Council:

Jennifer Torres

Valencia Dantzler, also known as Mother Diva

George Blakemore

Messiah Travis, Jr.

Reverend Beth Brown

Arne Duncan

In accordance with the City Council's Rules of Order and Procedure, the following member of the general public submitted written comments to address the City Council:

John Paul Jones

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**COMMITTEE ON POLICE AND FIRE.**

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**APPOINTMENT OF LARRY SNELLING AS SUPERINTENDENT OF CHICAGO  
POLICE DEPARTMENT.**

[A2023-0003864]

The Committee on Police and Fire submitted the following report:

CHICAGO, September 27, 2023.

*To the President and Members of the City Council:*

Your Committee on Police and Fire, having had a meeting on Friday, September 22, 2023 in the City Council Chambers to consider the appointment of Larry Snelling as the

Superintendent of the Chicago Police Department (A2023-0003864), having the same under advisement, begs leave to report and recommend that Your Honorable Body *Approve* the proposed appointment transmitted herewith.

This recommendation was concurred in by the affirmative vote of the committee members present for roll call to determine quorum.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) CHRIS TALIAFERRO,  
*Chair.*

Aldersperson Taliaferro moved to *Concur In* the committee's recommendation by a roll call vote.

Aldersperson Lopez, seconded by Aldersperson Sposato, moved that the roll call vote be taken verbally. The motion *Prevailed*.

Thereupon, the Clerk called the roll and the said proposed appointment of Larry Snelling as Superintendent of the Chicago Police Department was *Approved* by yeas and nays as follows:

Yeas -- Alderspersons La Spata, Hopkins, Dowell, Robinson, Yancy, Hall, Mitchell, Harris, Beale, Chico, Lee, Ramirez, Quinn, Gutiérrez, Lopez, Coleman, Moore, O'Shea, Taylor, Mosley, Rodríguez, Tabares, Scott, Sigcho-Lopez, Fuentes, Burnett, Ervin, Taliaferro, Cruz, Cardona, Waguespack, Rodríguez-Sánchez, Conway, Ramirez-Rosa, Mitts, Sposato, Nugent, Vasquez, Napolitano, Reilly, Knudsen, Lawson, Gardiner, Clay, Martin, Manaa-Hoppenworth, Hadden, Silverstein -- 48.

Nays -- None.

Aldersperson Mitchell moved to reconsider the foregoing vote. The motion was lost.

At this point in the proceedings, Aldersperson Mitchell moved to *Suspend the Rules Temporarily* for the purpose of going out of the regular order of business to permit the administration of the oath of office to the newly appointed Superintendent of Police. The motion *Prevailed*.

The Honorable Brandon Johnson, Mayor, invited Superintendent Larry Snelling to the Clerk's rostrum where City Clerk Andrea M. Valencia administered a ceremonial oath of office to the newly appointed Superintendent of Police. Interim Police Superintendent Fred Waller then pinned the gold superintendent's star to the uniform of Superintendent Snelling.

Mayor Johnson then extended congratulations to Larry Snelling on his confirmation as Superintendent of the Chicago Police Department. Mayor Johnson also expressed his appreciation to the members of the selection committee and praised the selection process as a testament to democracy. The City of Chicago has been on a long journey where our values have sometimes been called into question, the Mayor observed, and declared that "today is a turning point". Superintendent Snelling's story is a Chicago success story, the Mayor affirmed, and a true representation of who we are as a city. Reflecting on the challenges facing the new Superintendent of Police and the attributes necessary for success, Mayor Johnson proclaimed that "having the ability to express your leadership through your heart with love is not weakness, but it is the greatest power that we possess", and observed that those who are called to serve and protect remind us of the gospel teaching of Jesus Christ who preached that there is no greater love than someone who is willing to lay down their life for another. As we chart our course for our city's future, we must be guided by the principles of collaboration, competence and compassion, the Mayor declared -- "That's who Larry Snelling is. That's who Chicago is." We have reached a critical moment in our city's history, the Mayor continued, where intersecting challenges have all culminated at once. Where the "need for safety is also the need for housing, for education, for good paying jobs, for access to health care, for a transportation system that is second to none, and for a climate that allows for Black, Brown, whomever you are to be able to breathe and drink clean water", the Mayor stated. Our task today is not simply to say "Superintendent Snelling, you're in charge. Good luck", the Mayor asserted, but rather to do what the City of Chicago does best, "we stand shoulder to shoulder and support one another... that's what's going to build a better, stronger, safer Chicago." Policing alone is not the solution and this misguided belief will only take us in the wrong direction, the Mayor stated, noting that "whether you are walking to or from your home or school, regardless of who you are or where you are in this city you deserve to not just feel safe, but to be safe." Mayor Johnson again congratulated Larry Snelling on his confirmation as the Superintendent of Police and declared that "it is truly my honor to be in this position where the journey of the City of Chicago has reached the bridge that we're only going to be able to cross it if we do it together."

At this point, Alderperson Beale moved to *Suspend the Rules Temporarily* to grant Superintendent Snelling the privilege of the floor to address the body. The motion *Prevailed*.

Speaking from the Clerk's rostrum, Police Superintendent Snelling expressed his appreciation to Mayor Johnson and the members of the City Council on his appointment and the chorus of accolades they shared. "Every day I try to do what's right, and I find that's the most important thing", Superintendent Snelling declared. Thanking interim Police Superintendent Fred Waller for his leadership and dedicated service to the people of Chicago, Superintendent Snelling also commended and hailed the interim superintendent for his caring and supportive demeanour not just with police officers, but members of the community with whom he developed and nurtured a unique rapport and respect. Superintendent Snelling also conveyed his personal gratitude for the generosity and mentorship Superintendent Waller provided stating that "I would not be standing here had it not been for you...recognizing me...fighting for me. Thank you for bringing out of me something I may not have recognized in myself." Superintendent Snelling then expressed his appreciation to the Chicago Police Department command staff, sworn officers and non-sworn personnel for their dedication and respectful, collaborative, and successful partnership and to the members of his support staff for their invaluable assistance. Thanking the members of the Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability for their hard work throughout the selection process, Superintendent Snelling lauded their cooperative spirit and noted that despite disagreements during deliberations, the members were able to arrive at a consensus and demonstrate by example of how things can get done for our city as well when we open dialogue and listen to one another. "Differences do not mean that we cannot come to an understanding", Superintendent Snelling noted, but rather they can lead to a successful resolution when we employ cooperation and respect. Addressing the question of public safety, Superintendent Snelling stated that "we need to stand with each other and bring some of these issues to a conclusion, particularly violent crime" and always remain mindful of the devastating and lasting trauma it has on victims, families, communities, and our city. The scourge of violent crime claims the lives of Chicagoans in every community and we must find a way to stop it, but policing cannot do it alone, Superintendent Snelling stated, and a solution requires that we all get involved. Success cannot be achieved through any single approach, it requires cooperation and mutual respect between police and citizens, engagement by elected officials, objective accountability and fairness for all parties involved in an incident, parental guidance and support, and outreach programs and mental health services in schools and communities across our city, the Superintendent observed, and by adopting this approach we can begin to prevent rather than just solve crime. "Let's work together and fight to build this city", Superintendent Snelling asserted, so that we can showcase our success and set the course for a better Chicago.

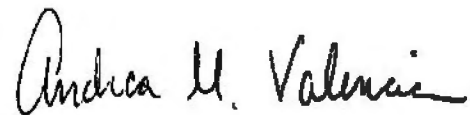
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REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS RESUMED.



**Adjournment.**

Aldersperson Mitchell then moved that the City Council do *Adjourn*. The motion *Prevailed* and the City Council *Stood Adjourned*.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Andrea M. Valencia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Andrea" and last name "Valencia" clearly legible.

ANDREA M. VALENCIA,  
*City Clerk.*