

## Daniel La Spata

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### CITY OF CHICAGO CITY COUNCIL



CITY HALL  
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Chair, Committee on Pedestrian and  
Traffic Safety

Vice Chair, Committee on Contracting  
Oversight and Equity

Ex-Officio, Chicago Plan Commission

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## **MONTHLY REPORT – NOVEMBER 2023** **COMMITTEE ON PEDESTRIAN AND TRAFFIC SAFETY**

Pursuant to the Rule 45 of City of Chicago Rules and Order, the Committee on Pedestrian and Traffic Safety submits the following monthly report for November 2023.

### **Date, Time, & Location of Meeting:**

On Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 9:30pm the Committee on Pedestrian and Traffic Safety held a meeting at City Hall in Council Chambers. Due to a delay in meeting quorum, the meeting began at 9:40 a.m.

### **Members in Attendance:**

Chairman La Spata (1<sup>st</sup> Ward)  
Vice Chairman Cruz (30<sup>th</sup> Ward)  
Alderman Hopkins (2<sup>nd</sup> Ward)  
Alderman Robinson (4<sup>th</sup> Ward)  
Alderman Yancy (5<sup>th</sup> Ward)  
Alderman Chico (10<sup>th</sup> Ward)  
Alderman Quinn (13<sup>th</sup> Ward)  
Vice Mayor Burnett (27<sup>th</sup> Ward) (remote)  
Alderman Ervin (28<sup>th</sup> Ward)  
Alderman Knudsen (43<sup>rd</sup> Ward)  
Alderman Lawson (44<sup>th</sup> Ward)  
Alderman Manaa-Hoppenworth (48<sup>th</sup> Ward)

**Absent Members:** Alderman Moore (17<sup>th</sup> Ward), Alderman Curtis (18<sup>th</sup> Ward), Alderman Martin (47<sup>th</sup> Ward)

**Non-Members in Attendance:** Alderman Rodriguez (22<sup>nd</sup> Ward), Alderman Fuentes (26<sup>th</sup> Ward), Alderman Vasquez (40<sup>th</sup> Ward)

The Chairman accepted a motion from Ald. Manaa-Hoppenworth to allow for remote participation by Ald. Burnett, which was approved by the same roll call as was used to establish quorum.

### **Public Comment:**

There were six in-person, spoken public comments made during the meeting.

- George Blakemore: Mr. Blakemore expressed opposition to the rule allowing alders to participate in meetings virtually. Mr. Blakemore uplifted how Black people specifically are policed, while driving, while talking, while simply existing, and the negative impact it has on one's psyche. He ended his public comment by expressing opposition to residential permit parking, stating that the street should be open to all taxpayers and people should have access to parking anywhere in the city instead of it being reserved for the people who live in the area.
- Patricia Jjemba: Ms. Jjemba is the Director of Legislative and External Affairs at the Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender and shared that traffic stops impact a majority of the 70,000 clients they represent. She stated traffic stops are often a gateway to charges that can inflict a lifetime of collateral consequences. The office reviews tens of thousands of hours of body-worn camera footage that show what police reports don't: improper traffic stops of thousands of individuals. Resolving the cases takes months and even years, all stemming from improper traffic stops. In 2022, over 20% of gun possession cases did not end in a conviction. Ms. Jjemba called on City Council to pass a policy that limits stops for low-level traffic offenses, prohibits pretextual traffic stops, and restricts consent searches.
- W. Robert Schultz III: Mr. Schultz is on staff at the Active Transportation Alliance and participates in the Free2Move Coalition. Mr. Schultz uplifted roadway safety as a genuine concern in Chicago, sharing data on pedestrian and cyclist injuries + fatalities: 25 pedestrian fatalities and 5 cyclist fatalities so far this year, and 15,837 pedestrian injuries and 3,360 fatalities or serious injuries since September 2017. Mr. Schultz called for safe streets for all as a solution to this issue. He shared that speeding is often a factor in these cases, but an analysis of 2022 data showed that less than 1% of CPD traffic stops were for speeding. He noted CPD's current use of traffic stops is ineffective for achieving traffic safety and not evidence-based. He ended by expressing support for the Coalition's goals and that he wishes to see resources diverted to things like Treatment Not Trauma and better infrastructure.
- Kyle Lucas: Mr. Lucas is the co-founder of Better Streets Chicago and a victim of traffic violence, very recently. He shared that he was hit twice in one week, both being hit-and-runs that police did not respond to. He shared multiple other examples / instances of traffic violence incidents in which police either did not respond or did not follow through with an investigation. He is in thousands of dollars of medical debt because CPD has never fully investigated any of the instances in which he has been on the receiving end of traffic violence. Mr. Lucas noted that CPD's budget is increasing again next year under the proposed budget and questioned whether increasing CPD's budget makes us safer as a city.
- Jose Manuel Almanza: Mr. Almanza is the Director of Advocacy at Equitcity, which stands with Free2Move to call for an end to pretextual traffic stops. He shared that pretextual stops don't serve as a tool to creating traffic safety or curbing gun violence. Equitcity is calling for an end to pretextual traffic stops and consent searches, which are used to fish for other violations and criminalize drivers.
- Kameron Huckleby: Mr. Huckleby shared that he has been pulled over 30 times by cops though he is just 35 years old. On October 16, 2020, officers initiated a traffic stop with Mr. Huckleby, who was already parked, because of a missing license plate. Mr. Huckleby was pulled out of the vehicle and asked for consent to search the vehicle, and he refused. Officers found an unregistered firearm in the passenger's purse, who had a FOID card though. Mr. Huckleby was arrested with gun possession charges and incarcerated in Cook County Jail for 25 months with no bond. His case was eventually dismissed but the arrest and incarceration impacted him deeply, keeping him away from his kids, resulting in a loss of employment, and more.

**Approval of October 2023 Rule 45 Report:**

Ald. Yancy moved to approve, which was approved by the same roll call as was used to establish quorum.

**Agenda of Matters Considered:**

The Agenda of Matters Considered consisted of 17 pages and included the following matters:

- Subject matter hearing on police traffic stops and impacts on Black and Latine city residents
- 237 ordinances related to disabled parking permits,
- 29 ordinances related to traffic warning signs and/or signals,
- 27 ordinances related to residential parking permit zones,
- 9 ordinances related to parking restrictions, and
- 1 ordinance amending the municipal code

Direct Introductions on page 2 Passed without Department recommendations. Ald. Lawson moved to approve all Direct Introduction ordinances, which was approved by the same roll call as was used to establish quorum.

All matters on pages 3-4 Passed as Recommended by the appropriate Department(s). Ald. Cruz moved to approve all Recommended ordinances, which was approved by the same roll call as was used to establish quorum.

All matters on pages 5-17 Passed with No Recommendation, with the exception of various changes and overrides as noted on the summary report. Ald. Manaa-Hoppenworth moved to approve all No Recommendation ordinances, which was approved by the same roll call as was used to establish quorum.

All actions taken at the meeting were by viva voce vote.

The subject matter hearing topic was police traffic stops in Chicago and the impacts of stops on Black and Latine city residents [R2023-0004214]. The resolution was introduced by Chairman La Spata and co-sponsored by Alders Martin, Sigcho-Lopez, Rodriguez-Sanchez, Fuentes, Rodriguez, Vasquez, Yancy, Cruz, Manaa-Hoppenworth, Hadden, and Ervin.

- Amy Thompson and Loren Jones from Impact for Equity and the Free2Move coalition led the presentation during the meeting, displaying and explaining data analysis of over 4.6 million traffic stops in Chicago over nineteen years. They pointed to trends in stops based on the race of drivers, as well as the trend in stops by violation (moving, equipment, or licensing/registration) between 2004 and 2022. They presented data on results of traffic stops, in terms of low percentages of contraband recovered, citations issued, and arrests, as well as use of force predominantly used against residents of color.
- Denzel Johnson, Malik Cole, Joi Imobhio, and Laura Saltzman were present to provide testimony on the impacts of traffic stops on individuals and their communities, based on their personal experiences.

Alders Robinson, Lawson, Chico, Yancy, Hopkins, Manaa-Hoppenworth, Fuentes, and Cruz shared comments and asked questions following the presentation, which ranged from technical questions on policy changes that could be adopted and the research findings presented to sharing personal experiences with traffic stops and expressing interest in continuing this conversation with their colleagues in City Council and other impacted or relevant city departments.

Having no further business before the committee, Chairman La Spata requested a motion to adjourn. Ald. Manaa-Hoppenworth so moved, and hearing no objections, Chairman La Spata adjourned the meeting at 11:14 a.m.