

The Independent Review Committee for the University of Chicago Police Department

Committee Charge:

The University of Chicago Police Department (UCPD) is a professional police force deputized by the Superintendent of Police of the City of Chicago, with regular police powers while on duty in the areas of Hyde Park, Kenwood, North Kenwood, and Woodlawn. Over the years, the University police officers have performed a valuable service and demonstrated a commitment to the University community and the broader surrounding neighborhoods.

From time to time, however, complaints have been made about individual incidents or policies. The University has established the Independent Review Committee to help ensure the campus and community's confidence in UCPD is maintained. The Independent Review Committee reviews complaints brought against University police by members of the University community and the public whom UCPD serves if those complaints relate directly or indirectly to issues of excessive force, violation of rights, abusive language, or dereliction of duty. The Committee evaluates the actions of UCPD and, when necessary, makes recommendations regarding UCPD's policies and procedures. The Committee reports its findings and recommendations to the Provost and the Executive Vice President for Administration & Chief Financial Officer. A Committee report of all incidents including any recommended changes to policies or procedures is produced annually for the Provost, President, and Executive Vice President for Administration & Chief Financial Officer and is made available to the campus and community.

The Committee has regularly scheduled meetings to review all UCPD complaint reports and related policy, procedural, and communication issues. Additional meetings may be called by the Chair to review individual incidents or as necessary to produce the annual report.

The Committee is independent from UCPD. It is not intended to replace UCPD's internal review and discipline procedures.

UCPD Complaint Review Process:

Members of the University community and the public whom UCPD serves may bring complaints about UCPD's actions to UCPD, to the Committee by contacting the Chair, to the Office of the Vice President for Campus and Student Life, to any member of the Dean-on-Call Program, to the Office for Civic Engagement, or to the Office of the Student Ombudsperson. All complaints will be referred to UCPD for investigation.

Complaints brought against UCPD are investigated by UCPD. For each allegation within a complaint, UCPD makes a determination as to whether it is:

1. **Unfounded**—the allegations are not factually accurate; the alleged conduct did not occur.
2. **Exonerated**—the alleged conduct did occur but was justified under the circumstances.
3. **Sustained**—the alleged conduct did occur and was not justified under the circumstances.

4. Not Sustained—the written record of the investigation does not support a determination of whether the alleged conduct occurred. A classification of Not Sustained is used whenever a case involves conflicting stories that are not clearly resolvable on the basis of evidence presented to the Committee.
5. Administratively Closed—no investigation was completed due to the fact that the complainant did not either (i) sign an affidavit for the investigation to proceed, a requirement of the State of Illinois for a citizen complaint investigation (except in an instance of alleged serious or criminal violation) or (ii) otherwise cooperate with the investigation.

Independent Review Committee Review Procedures:

In reviewing UCPD's determinations, the Committee may:

1. Agree with UCPD's disposition of the complaint.
2. Identify an issue not raised in the original complaint that is raised in the report record and ask that UCPD investigate the issue; the identified issue will be labeled "supplemental."
3. Disagree with disposition of an allegation within a complaint and suggest an alternate disposition.
4. Suggest that UCPD consider different or additional sanctions for University officers involved in an incident.
5. If warranted, suggest that UCPD review its procedures and considering amending them be altered to address a particular issue or concern.
6. If needed, request information about an officer's prior record. As part of its review, the Committee may ask for a summary of past disciplinary action against an officer. Also, the Committee may ask for a summary of past commendations an officer has received.
7. If needed, request UCPD procedures related to recurring problems relevant to the complaint under review.

Composition of the Independent Review Committee:

The Committee is appointed by the Provost and consists of three faculty members, one of whom is designated by the Provost as Chair, three students, two staff members, and three community members. Individuals wishing to propose someone for membership to the Committee may contact the Associate Provost for Faculty and Student Affairs.

*More information on UCPD and the complaint process is available at
<http://safety-security.uchicago.edu/police/commendations.shtml>*

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