



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**  
**CITY OF CHICAGO**

**LORI E. LIGHTFOOT**  
MAYOR

December 22, 2020

Ladies and Gentlemen of the City Council,

I write to share an important update in the aftermath of the public disclosure of the horrifying video showing the raid of Ms. Anjanette Young's house.

As you know, it has been one week since I and many of you first saw the shocking video of Chicago police officers executing a search on Ms. Young's house, the decidedly wrong house. Ms. Young's agonizing trauma was real, raw and painfully human. The officers who were in her house denied her basic human rights and treated her with utter disrespect.

We must get to the bottom of what transpired around the wrong raid of Ms. Young's home and all that followed which is why I support the City's Inspector General investigating this matter. I have directed my staff to cooperate with him and his team in any way that we can.

However, we must go further in order to ensure what Ms. Young experienced never happens again. To conduct that whole of government review, former federal judge Ann Claire Williams and her law firm, Jones Day, have graciously agreed to handle this matter pro bono. For those of you who do not know "Judge Ann," as she is known, here's a bit of her background: she was a former senior Assistant United States Attorney where she was known as a phenomenal trial attorney; then she became a federal district court judge; then she was elevated to the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals, the first and only African American to serve on that bench. Her awards and groundbreaking work off the bench are too numerous to mention here. Judge Ann now serves as Counsel at the Jones Day law firm here in Chicago. Judge Ann is revered in legal circles and among all who know her. She is in my view, the definition of integrity.

Her mandate will include every relevant department, including the Mayor's Office. We want a review of the procedures and processes in place that allowed this incident and subsequent actions to unfold as they did. I have directed that Judge Ann and her team should be given full cooperation. She will follow the facts where they lead. The results of her investigation will be shared with you, and the public.

In addition to full review of the government's actions, COPA is in the midst of investigating the specific circumstances which led to the search of Ms. Young's house, what happened during that search, and also importantly, what happened once officers knew they had the wrong house.

There are many things that must be done to right the wrong for Ms. Young individually and I am prepared to do so, swiftly.

But there are other victims of wrong raids beyond Ms. Young and we must identify and address their pain as well. I have ordered a full accounting of these cases and Acting Corporation Counsel Celia Meza is working to bring those cases to light as well.

In addition, as you know, at my direction, in 2019, the City's Chief Risk Officer, worked with the CPD to enact specific changes to the search warrant policies. Those changes went into effect on January 3, 2020. Highlights of those changes include:

1. Now, two supervisors, one of whom must be at least a Lieutenant, must approve a search warrant before it can be presented to a states' attorney and the court;
2. A search warrant cannot be based on information from a paid confidential informant. Any such information must be independently corroborated;
3. There are new mandated protections for children; and,
4. Unlike at the time of the search at Ms. Young's house in February 2019, before I and many of you were in office, officers are now mandated to initiate a formal investigation every time there is an allegation of "the wrong house." As you know, COPA has jurisdiction over 4th Amendment violations such as what happened with Ms. Young.

I have also asked Superintendent Brown, who was not here at the time these changes went into effect, to review the new policies with fresh eyes and make any other changes to ensure that the CPD policy is best in class.

There are more facts to uncover, there is more work to be done, and I am fully committed to doing it.

Please let me or a member of IGA know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Lori E. Lightfoot  
Mayor