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To: [Police Chief Search](#)
Subject: Transcript of Spoken Comments 12/14
Date: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 5:19:04 PM

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Hello,

Below are my written notes (nearly an exact transcript) for my comments to the commission on 12/14, to aid in a complete record of the process:

- The additional meeting on Friday for public comment is appreciated, but it's kind of too little too late, since we still haven't seen the full recordings of the interviews and haven't had the opportunity to ask questions directly.
- First of all, the announcement of the 4 finalists came mere days after the PCOB began its work in earnest. Knowing since the summer that this body was forming in response to issues with the legitimacy of policing as an institution, it seems suspicious that the PFC decided to move forward with a timeline that completely ignores the role the PCOB is meant to fill.
- Second, the finalists who made it through casts doubt on the process as well. Specifically, for reasons that I outlined in my previous statements to this commission, Davis is an entirely inappropriate candidate who should never have been considered due to his deputy chief post with one of the most racist police departments in the country, and due to his approval and defense of heinous acts against community members by officers under his authority.
- Of the candidates presented, Batista is undoubtedly the best. The so-called "checkered" past involves police unions, who universally wield shadow-political power to run the cities they are in like mob rackets, voting no confidence in him because he had the audacity to condemn the beating of community members, IN CUSTODY, by officers he commanded. This is, of course, the barest minimum of human decency, and shockingly low bar, yet here we are in 2020.
- Shon Barnes.... Has no wrongdoing in his past. This is true! He's also done little to show that he is willing to fight for human decency against his department and against police unions. He joined Chicago's COPA in August, and only finished school in 2018. I tried to find his PhD thesis, but it was the only of his class' theses which wasn't publicly available from his alma mater. This is incidental to the process, but it means he's an unknown, and frankly, it seems he's being offered as a sort of "compromise" between the barest minimum of human decency and a former member of a literal right wing death squad.
- Early this summer, UW restarted their system president search process when it became clear it was tainted and undemocratic. It would not be inappropriate to learn from the lessons of the past half year and restart with PCOB's input. Since this process put forth more than a single finalist, however, there is the option to pick the candidate who has, in the past, done the bare minimum to maintain accountability to the community.
- If the commission decides instead to pick a man who's trying to leave his oversight job before he even begins, or heaven forbid, to hire a chief with blood on his hands, then it's simply the case that that chief will only have the barest illusion of legitimacy. It would be an indictment of the system, an illustration that the authority of the police truly, only arises from the barrel of a gun, and I'm severely concerned about the extent of the destruction of corporate property downtown next time

one of the many police agencies in the area kills someone on a no-knock raid, or chases someone through the woods with dogs in the night to murder them. We saw what happened last summer, do you want a repeat of it when you've stripped MPD of its legitimacy?

Thank you to the clerk's office workers for keeping this process orderly!

-Jack

Mx. Jack K. Phillips

They/Them

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