

City of Chicago

DISTRICT COUNCIL #2

COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY
MEETING MINUTES

MEETING TYPE: ☒ Regular ☐ Special ☐ Closed

MEETING DATE: 1/20/2024

MEETING LOCATION AND ADDRESS: Timothy Community Corporation, 4351 S Drexel Blvd Chicago, IL 60602. MEETING START TIME: 10:30am

Attendance & Quorum

OMA Meeting cannot take place without 2 of the 3 members present in person.

District Council Member Name	Attendance
Chair: Alexander Perez	Present: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Remote: <input type="checkbox"/> Absent: <input type="checkbox"/>
Community Engagement: Julia Kline	Present: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Remote: <input type="checkbox"/> Absent: <input type="checkbox"/>
Nominating Committee: Ephraim Lee	Present: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Remote: <input type="checkbox"/> Absent: <input type="checkbox"/>

Quorum (2 out of 3 members): Yes: X No: ☐

Meeting Called to Order: 10:35AM

Guest Presentation:

10:40 AM - 11:20 AM

Lt. Joseph Schuler of the Chicago Police Department, spoke at length about Crisis Intervention Team (CIT). Started in Memphis TN, in 1986, after a police involved shooting. Composed of multiple grass-root organizations. currently partnered with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). Purpose is to de-escalate situations involving individuals suffering from a mental health episode. CPD officers are now being trained in how to properly address individuals. There are over 60,000 mental health calls a year.

More information and Lt. Schuler's full presentation can be found via the 2nd District Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/DistrictCouncil002/videos>

Public Comment:

Sarah Cash - Spoke about Alderwoman Taylor's suggestion that officers who are found guilty of misconduct, should be responsible for paying out for settlements. Ms. Cash wondered if somehow it would be useful if this tactic could alter the way that the police union currently operates in protecting officers who step out of line and are accused of

misconduct. What is the best way to change behavior?

Councilman Lee, responded to Ms. Cash concerns, and relayed his feelings on how the District Councils recognize the issue and are working to change the culture of CPD

Bryan Ramson Jr. - 11th District Council Member: Responded to Ms. Cash's comment about whether or not police could be responsible for paying for their own misconduct. Insurance

Mr. Davis responded to Ms. Cash with a story about a young lady in a scenario about Mars and the last oxygen tank. His feelings centered on the need for organizations to help people.

Councilwoman Kline responded to Ms. Cash about her concerns, and explained the financial ramifications from police misconduct.

Zhenya Polozova: Spoke about the arbitration challenge that the Chicago city council was currently debating in city hall, and her concerns surrounding how the union of CPD wants to allow for those officers charged with serious offenses to have their cases decided by an arbitrator behind closed doors.

She also commented on how city officials stated that they did not receive the current police contract in a timely manner, and how it was voted in without a thorough amount of scrutiny by city council members and the public, except through a FOIA request.

Finally, Ms. Polozova spoke about the need for more in-district community events, where citizens with more knowledge about police could help change its culture through a collective amount of political will.

Councilman Perez responded to Ms. Polozova about the arbitration process, the collective letter created and signed by a large majority of District Councilors, in an attempt to force the arbitration clause back to the bargaining table.

Councilwoman Kline responded and relayed her feelings and information on the arbitration process.

Councilman Lee responded and relayed his feelings and information on the arbitration process.

Councilman Perez responded and relayed his feelings and information on the arbitration process.

Councilwoman Kline responded and relayed her feelings and information on the arbitration process.

District Council Member Updates:

Nominating Committee (Ephraim Lee)

Councilman Lee informed the audience about where the nominating process stood as it related to the nominating committee's work processing applications for a seat on the CCPSA. Councilman Lee reiterated the need for a diverse group of citizens to step up and apply through the application portal, the closing dates where applications will no longer be accepted, and the amount of applications currently received.

Community Engagement (Julia Kline)

Councilor Kline proposed that in the interest of time instead of delivering her report Verbally, it instead would be attached as a written addendum to the minutes of the meeting. This proposal was denied by a vote of two to one.

Councilor announced that on Saturday, December 16th 2023, she attended the annual city-wide meeting of DC's. On Monday, January 8th, 2024 she attended via Zoom, a meeting of the policy working group of interested DC's.

On Wednesday January 10th, she attended a ZOOM call of the CPASS coalition, a group of lawyers and activists focused on pushing a vote of NO on the FOP contract.

On Friday, January 12th 2024, Councilor Kline was invited to the Mayor of Chicago interfaith breakfast. While there, she met with Civilian Office of Police Accountability chief administrator, Andrea Kirsten and Cook County State's Attorney, Kim Foxx as well as her Chief of Staff.

Later that afternoon, Councilor Kline attended (via ZOOM) the Civil Liberties Coalition call with speaker Carlton Myers III. Councilor Kline has provided Councilor Perez with Mr. Myers contact information, so that he may be a guest speaker during a future DC meeting.

On January 16th, Councilor Kline was invited by IL State Representative Curtis Tarver to a fundraiser in Bronzeville, for State's Attorney challenger Clayton Harris III. Councilor Kline stated that she has made campaign donations to Mr. Harris III bid for State's Attorney and that she also plans to support him by addressing the community on his behalf and door knocking.

Councilor Kline's final report centered on the amount of special meetings that have been proposed by Councilor Perez. Her objection to these meetings was based on the premise that meetings of this type do not allow for the same transparency as those hosted monthly. Her solution to special meetings is to address any major issues during the regular monthly meetings, thereby eliminating the need for having them. She requested that Councilor Perez cancel the next scheduled special meeting on financial and budget issues slated for January 28th, 2024, to which Councilor Perez refused. Councilor Kline added that because she was not in favor of this special meeting, she would be abstaining from attending as a conscientious objector.

Chair (Alexander J. Perez)

Councilman Perez spoke at length about why he felt the need to propose and conduct special meetings. Councilor Perez explained that in order to complete certain objectives dealing with Community engagement, financial issues, and the expedition of other pertinent issues, he had no choice but to initiate special meetings.

Councilor Perez also spoke about upcoming goals including community engagement, more Constituent attendance, DC attendance to CPD roll calls, better communication with CPD and Commanders, including having a stronger physical presence from officer in the community through foot patrols. Furthermore, Councilor Perez spoke about the need for officer surveys Which could help build stronger relationships between DC's and police

Also mentioned was an officer recognition program, where officers who are doing positive things in the community get recognized.

Discussions

Councilor Kline stated her opposition to Councilor's Perez's goals, including that they did not go far enough at holding officers accountable for misconduct. She also took time to describe and lay out seven goals of her own and let the audience know that they were available through handouts. Finally, Councilor Kline suggested that herself and Councilor Perez, both work on their own goals.

Old Business

Vote taken on December minutes. Vote passes with Councilor's Perez and Lee voting Yea, while Councilor Kline voted Nay. Vote carries. Councilor Kline objects to the vote on the December meeting.

New Business

Votes

1

Summary of Votes taken:

2 Yea 1 Nay

NEXT MEETING DATE:

February 20, 2024 6:30 PM

NEXT MEETING LOCATION (if available): Timothy Community Corporation, 4351 S Drexel Blvd Chicago, IL 60602

District Council ended the meeting at: 12:10 pm