

CITY OF CHICAGO
DISTRICT COUNCIL 017
COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY
MEETING MINUTES

MEETING TYPE: X Regular ☐ Special ☐ Closed

MEETING DATE: 4/9/2025

MEETING LOCATION & ADDRESS: Schurz High School, 3601 N Milwaukee Ave

MEETING START TIME: 6:08 p.m.

Attendance & Quorum

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

District Council Member Name	Attendance
Chair: Vacant	Present: <input type="checkbox"/> Remote: <input type="checkbox"/> Absent: <input type="checkbox"/>
Nominator: Elizabeth Rochford	Present: X Remote: <input type="checkbox"/> Absent: <input type="checkbox"/>
Community Engagement: Anthony Tamez	Present: X Remote: <input type="checkbox"/> Absent: <input type="checkbox"/>

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

Public Comment:

Keith expressed concerns about the disconnect between the mayor's directives to prevent violent activity and actions taken by district commanders. He highlighted incidents of police bullying and harassment at the encampment on the morning of the AME, emphasizing the need for checks to ensure police adhere to elected officials' directives.

Grace raised issues about a CPD officer affiliated with the Oath Keepers, whose members pledge not to enforce certain laws. She stressed the importance of ensuring all officers follow the mayor's directives and expressed her discomfort with officers potentially acting against their sworn duties.

Sarah Jane detailed negative experiences with police presence at homeless encampments, including intimidation, harassment, and the removal of shelters during extremely cold weather. She criticized the lack of accountability for officers' actions and the ongoing impact on residents' willingness to seek housing assistance.

Approval of Minutes:

January 11th: Approved unanimously. January 26th (Special Meeting): Approved unanimously. February 5th: Approved unanimously. March 15 Meeting: No quorum; approved absence of minutes.

District Council Member Updates:

Anthony Tamez:

Palm Cards: Need resizing and reprinting. Awaiting quotes from the city's printing department. Community Care Network: 13 volunteers signed up; currently, no individuals requiring assistance.

Elizabeth Rochford:

Nominations—The Mayor has selected Gina Piemonte as the new Commissioner. She will appear before the Police and Fire Committee on Friday, April 11th, and hopefully the City Council on the 16th. We look forward to her joining the fight soon!

33rd Ward Safety Collaborative — I participated in 2 ALSO events in March and passed out know your rights cards and COPA Cards. We are waiting to hear back from the principal of Hibbard School to possibly have some events there this spring and summer. If anyone is off work and able to join Israel's Gifts of Hope, they are having their annual Peace Walk to end gun violence on Good Friday, 4/18, at noon, starting at Christ Lutheran Church. Keep an eye out for that flyer that I will forward soon.

Restorative Justice — I have been working with DCs from the 20th and 24th Districts, as well as community members, on getting a new RJCC. Shout out to Paddy for participating in a meeting with Cook County Commissioner Bridget Degnan and giving great testimony about how the court works and the great job it is doing to change lives. The new State's Attorney has changed what types of cases they are sending to the courts so which has had an impact on the number of cases before the court. We are continuing that work and have now met with 3 of the local Cook County Commissioners on this, and have another meeting set up for next week. We will continue to advocate for either a new court or changes to the area the courts cover, the ages of court participants, and/or the types of cases. We may need you to help us put pressure on our elected officials to increase the use of this very beneficial part of the justice system.

GO1-11 — This General order directs how District Commanders and leadership interact with the DCs. There is a training for the Commanders next week, and DCs have been invited to participate.

Commission — Next meeting 4/24 at 6:30 at Pui Tak Center, 2216 S. Wentworth Ave. The next Traffic Stop hearing is 4/16 at 6:30 at Truman College on Wilson in Uptown. We strongly encourage people to come because we have been pushing for one on the Northside. I have a new Survey that is slightly different from the one you may have done before, so please fill it out and give your opinion on how the traffic stop policy should be changed.

Consent Decree hearing - the last hearing was yesterday, and it addressed the Department's Strategic Plan. They are on the second Tuesday of each month. The next one is May 13th at 1 pm and will focus on Search Warrants. The June hearing will include Public Comment, and I will continue to inform you all of the dates and times for these meetings, and hope you will let the Court know your thoughts on the Consent Decree.

Immigrant outreach — I have been partnering with The Albany Park Defense Network, Our Lady of Mercy Church, Communities United and the HANA center to educate and support the migrant community and make sure they know their rights and have other support systems as well as have information to make a COPA complaint if they are involved in any problematic behavior of CPD.

DV – I am on the 17th district CAPS DV subcommittee, and this month we discussed an upcoming Diaper giveaway they will be doing for Child Abuse Awareness Month, and we will be getting information on Parenting Resources to give to the community. More to come on that.

CAPS Strategic Planning – I am on a DC working group who are making progress towards recommending changes to the District's Strategic plans. I met with the commander about it yesterday. Our speaker for today informed me on Monday that he would not be able to present, and an attempt to get another speaker also failed, so I will be doing the presentation. We want your input on these documents since they are supposed to drive the work of the district.

Commission Priorities

Priority Proposal #1: Building Trust Through Transparent Justice: A Proposal to Improve Crime Clearance Rates. The Commission is interested in advancing the topic of clearance rates as a priority in 2025. The Commission will take the following next steps for this priority:

1. Provide education to the public on clearance rates, including how they are calculated, what they represent, and how policing factors and external factors impact them.

At a minimum, public education will consist of a presentation at a Commission meeting.

2. Gather the state of reporting on clearance rates by CPD to identify opportunities for improvement.

Staff is currently preparing a request for information from the Department, including the clearance rate reporting items and other topics of interest for the Commission.

3. Consult with CPD on the state of its work to improve clearance rates. The Commission set a goal for the Superintendent in 2024 to establish an improvement plan; the Commission will engage CPD on progress to date and opportunities for additional improvements. As part of this process, the Commission will review current research on best practices for strategies for improving clearance rates.

An update regarding clearance rates is currently not on the agenda for the April meeting. Clearance rates are not specifically included in the 2025 CPD goals; however, many of the CPD goals certainly impact clearance rates, including the victim services and the community policing goals. The CPD Goals Working Group will be meeting with the Superintendent in late April or early May to discuss the 2025 goals. And the Commission as a whole will be considering how to address the next steps that they identified.

Priority Proposal #5: Community Mediation Process for Low-Level Complaints with Input from District Councilors. The Commission has already incorporated the topic of community mediation as a priority for 2025. Following receipt of this proposal, the Commission made sure that the 2025 goals for the COPA Chief Administrator included a goal on a community mediation process. This goal states that DCs will play a role in providing input to COPA and identifying mediators for the program. The goal also states that metrics for performance on this goal will include how well COPA engages DCs. The Commission will take the following next steps:

1. Continue to review COPA's progress on the mediation program as part of the goals and evaluations process for the COPA Chief Administrator in 2025.

2. Follow through on ensuring COPA engages DCs in the process, and use that engagement as part of the performance evaluation at the end of 2025.

3. Report out updates on COPA's progress on the mediation program.

4. Invite DCs to share comments with the Commission on their experiences with the mediation program and COPA's work to engage DCs.

We are waiting for the CCPSA staff to get back to us on a date for the Area 5 Focus group meeting to get DC and community input on what they want the Community Police Mediation to look like. They suggested that we join the 25th DC meeting where COPA will be presenting, but it is the same night as the next Commission meeting, so we are waiting to hear of a stand-alone event.

Priority Proposal #6: Transfer Investigation of Officers with Ties to Hate Groups to COPA. The Commission has already incorporated the general topic of extremism in law enforcement as a priority for 2025. Regarding the specific approach outlined in the proposal, the Commission needs to assess how well its existing endeavors related to the General Order G08-03 address the issues underlying this proposal. The Commission is also focused on the work of selecting a new COPA Chief Administrator. The Commission will take the following next steps for this priority:

1. Focus on the successful implementation of G08-03. As part of this process, the Commission will engage CPD to better understand how BIA can ensure proper enforcement of the General Order.

2. Report out updates on the implementation of G08-03 and the related 2025 goal for the Superintendent and explore how well the goal addresses the underlying concerns outlined in the priority proposal.

I reached out to the Commissioners on the taskforce and staff, and the response I got back from the staff was "the Superintendent's 2025 goal number 3 focuses on the Department's implementation of G08-03. The Q1 deliverables are mostly concerned with the establishment and rollout of training in and the creation of mechanisms for tracking all intakes related to G08-03. The CPD goals working group and staff will be meeting with the Superintendent before and will provide updates at the Commission's regular meeting at the end of the month regarding those deliverables.

The answer I got on the Task Force itself was "The full EIL Task Force met on March 26, 2025. Key takeaways from this meeting include identifying:

- Opportunities to expand education and recruitment materials for recruits and current department members to ensure that all are informed on the city's intolerance of association with extremist and hate groups.
- Opportunities to standardize communications on extremism and hate group affiliations between city departments to ensure that CPD members are receiving the same expectations for conduct from the start of recruitment efforts through an individual's time at CPD.

The task force currently plans to develop recommendations for a report within the next two months. The task force is scheduled to meet bi-weekly through the end of May, and the task force met today."

Discussion:

District Strategic Plan Discussion

Overview of DSPs

Components:

Crime Reduction Strategies: Three priorities per district based on community input and crime data.

Community Engagement Plans: Focused on specific groups such as seniors, youth, domestic violence, mental health, and homelessness.

Purpose: Improve public safety, increase community trust, ensure accountability, and determine resource allocation.

Community Engagement Process:

Issues Identified:

Limited participation from community members.

Lack of clear metrics and accountability in the plans.

Poor accessibility and readability of reports.

Inadequate follow-up and transparency in communicating Progress

Process Improvement Goals:

Enhance community participation and ensure diverse representation.

Improve accessibility of final plans and reports.

Establish clear metrics and accountability measures.

Foster better communication between CPD and the Community. Public Questions and Discussions

Crime Clearance Rates:

Defined as the percentage of crimes where perpetrators are identified and charged.

Concerns raised about low clearance rates in Chicago and potential negative incentives for police

Community Engagement Feedback:

Questions about the involvement of priority groups (e.g., homeless individuals) in the planning process.

Requests for transparency regarding the costs and resource allocation of strategic planning.

Suggestions for virtual participation to increase accessibility.

Emphasis on not overstepping police roles in addressing homelessness and mental health issue

Action Items

1. Enhance Community Engagement:

Increase participation in district strategic planning through diverse outreach methods.

Incorporate virtual participation options to accommodate all community members.

Improve Transparency and Reporting:

Ensure quarterly progress reports are accessible and clearly communicated to the community.

Define and implement clear metrics for evaluating the effectiveness of strategic plans.

Address Police Accountability:

Invite the district commander to future meetings to address community concerns directly.

Ensure General Order G011 is followed, with trained CPD representatives attending meetings.

Facilitate Policy Development:

Collaborate with community organizations to inform the district strategic plans.

Advocate for abolishing roles that overextend police

responsibilities, particularly concerning homelessness and mental health.

Community Feedback during discussion:

Review and respond to survey results from the traffic stop policy changes.

Address concerns raised during public comments regarding police conduct and strategic plan implementation.

Emphasis on making strategic plans more user-friendly and transparent.

Recognition of ongoing issues with police interactions at homeless encampments and the need for systemic accountability.

Continued advocacy for restorative justice and community-based solutions to reduce reliance on police intervention in non-criminal matters.

Upcoming meetings:

Traffic Stop Hearing: Scheduled for April 16th at 6:30 PM at

Truman College on Wilson in Uptown. Introduction of a traffic stop survey with QR codes for public feedback.

April 24th at 6:30 PM: Commission meeting at Pui Tak Center, 2116 South Wentworth.

May 10th: Tentative location at McFetridge Park District, California, Irving and Addison

Finalize arrangements for the annual peace walk on April 18th.

Announcement of Next District Council Meeting

NEXT MEETING DATE: 5/10/25

NEXT MEETING LOCATION (if available): McFetridge Sports Center

District Council ended the meeting at 7:39 p.m.