
CITY OF CHICAGO

DISTRICT COUNCIL 003

COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

MEETING NOTES

Meeting Type: Community Talk Session

Date: 9/26/2025

Location: Jackson Park Fieldhouse, 6401 S Stony Island Ave.

Start Time: 6:08 PM

Adjourned: 6:20 PM

Facilitator: Janice Jones, 3rd District Counselor – Community Engagement

1. Call to Order

- Community Meeting was called to order at **6:08 PM** by Janice Jones.
 - Purpose: An open community talk to hear concerns, share updates, and strengthen engagement.
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2. Introductions

Participants introduced themselves:

1. **Janice Jones** – 3rd District Counselor, Community Engagement.
 2. **Sharon Davis** – Representative, Dorchester Place Home Association.
 3. **Natalie Bonds** – Attending for Chicago Documenters.
 4. **Sergeant D. Patterson** – 3rd District Community Policing Office.
 5. **Commander Melvin Branch** – 3rd District Commander.
 6. **Jill** – Nursing student, UIC, attending for a community assessment project.
 7. **Martin** – Community member.
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3. Purpose of Community Engagement (Janice Jones)

- Emphasized the importance of:
 1. Building stronger relationships among community members, schools, and police.

2. Locating and making resources accessible to residents.
 3. Encouraging community participation and trust-building.
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4. Police Department Updates

4.1 Sergeant D. Patterson

- **Community Policing Mission:** Bridge the gap between residents and law enforcement through trust and transparency.
- **Engagement Opportunities:**
 1. **“Together We Can” meetings** (bimonthly with Commander Branch, community, and stakeholders).
 2. **Monthly Beat Meetings** for neighborhood-level issues (e.g., Beat 323, Beat 324).
- **Crime Data Transparency:**
 - Top five violent crimes regularly reviewed:
 1. Homicide
 2. Shootings
 3. Burglaries
 4. Robberies
 5. Motor Vehicle Thefts/Hijackings
 - Current trend: Overall downward, except robberies (a citywide and national issue).
- **Youth Engagement:** Officers active in schools such as Hyde Park High School, Comer High/Middle School, South Shore Performing Arts, and others.
- **Senior Engagement:** Events, resources, and safety programs for older adults.
- **Committees & Programs:**
 1. Faith-Based Subcommittee
 2. Domestic Violence Subcommittee
 3. Troubled Buildings & Businesses Committee
 4. Youth Subcommittee
 5. Affinity Officer serving underserved populations (LGBTQ+, unhoused residents).

4.2 Commander Melvin Branch

- Reinforced community involvement is the key to reducing crime.
 - Encouraged residents to act as **“eyes and ears”** of the district.
 - Residents may submit photos/videos anonymously, which are compiled and forwarded to detectives.
 - Stressed that collaboration between the **community, patrol officers, and detectives** is essential for solving crimes.
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5. Community Engagement Discussion (Janice Jones)

- Violence prevention and crime-solving are shared **responsibilities**.
 - Building trust and mutual support between neighbors and institutions is critical.
 - Recognized the contributions of community organizations partnering with the 3rd District to provide resources.
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6. Announcements & Upcoming Meetings

- Flyers with event information were distributed.
 - **Next Meeting Date: October 21, 2025.**
 - Goal: Increase attendance and community participation.
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7. Closing

- No additional questions or comments were raised.
- Meeting was adjourned at **6:20 PM**.