

**CITY OF CHICAGO
DISTRICT COUNCIL 002
COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Type: Regular

Date: July 29, 2025

Location: Washington Park Fieldhouse, 5531 S. Martin Luther King Drive

Start Time: 6:05 PM

Attendance & Quorum

The Open Meetings Act requires at least two of three council members to be present in person for the meeting to proceed.

District Council Member

Chair: Ephraim Lee

Nominator: Marquinn McDonald

Community Engagement: Alexander Perez

Attendance Status

Present

Absent

Present

Quorum Met: Yes

Public Comment

No public comments were received.

Call to Order

Quorum confirmed and meeting called to order.

District Council Updates

Chair– Ephraim Lee

Community Engagement–Alexander Perez

First Annual Back to School Bash

- **Date:** August 17, 2025
- **Location:** Woodson Elementary School
- **Highlights:**
 - 200 backpacks donated by a community member, to be distributed at two events
 - Partnership with Black Fire Brigade and local barbershops (seven+ barbers offering free haircuts)
 - Sponsorship of 20 additional backpacks by Pookie Crack Cakes
 - Volunteer support from Sharon, Terry, and Montgomery Place seniors, who also included personalized notes in backpacks
 - Next packing date: August 6, 2025
- **46th & Vincennes Block Club Back to School & Block Party**
 - **Date:** August 19, 2025
 - **Time:** 10:00 AM–4:00 PM
 - **Features:** Backpack and supply distribution, medical van from St. John’s offering free physicals, free food, games, raffles, and District Council outreach table
- **Summer Night Takeover** – August 8, 2025; youth-focused event; council participation confirmed
- **National Night Out** – August 5, 2025; council participation confirmed

Reflections: This is the highest number of concurrent events in three years of council operation, reflecting increased community engagement and collaboration with local organizations.

District Strategic Plan (DSP) Update

The DSP working group is finalizing its second draft of proposed changes to submit to CPD’s Office of Community Policing. Final recommendations will be presented to the public before submission.

Recent improvements include:

- DSPs are now available online for the first time in five years, translated into English, Spanish, and Mandarin
- New website features community conversation dates

Council members emphasized that district councils have been more proactive and transparent than their predecessors, the District Advisory Councils, and anticipate more significant DSP reforms in the coming year.

CPD Training Review and Civil Rights Concerns – Chair Ephraim Lee

Councilors Lee and McDonald attended immersive scenario-based CPD training at 1300 West Jackson, involving de-escalation under stress and weapon handling with simulated rounds. The training scenario included responding to a noise complaint that escalated into an armed confrontation.

Lee reflected on the stress of the simulation and drew parallels to real-life incidents, such as the Dexter Reed case.

The discussion included a review of *Terry v. Ohio* (1968) and concerns about stop-and-frisk practices, probable cause, and civil rights violations. The council will advocate for:

- Annual civil rights and use-of-force training for all CPD officers throughout their careers
- Distinction between weapons proficiency and civil rights understanding

Crisis Intervention, De-escalation, and Alternative Response

The council reviewed CPD's continuum force and pressed for more authentic de-escalation practices. Discussions included whether all mental health calls require police presence, with support for expanding civilian-led crisis response models such as CARE teams.

Plans include engaging programs in New York, Detroit, and Evanston, and conducting observational visits to study alternative response models.

District Council Outreach and Accountability

With meeting participation stagnating, the council committed to broader outreach, including distributing flyers, engaging in door-to-door outreach, and intentionally targeting underrepresented groups, particularly LGBTQ residents. The council stressed the importance of public accountability and combating political apathy.

Police Culture, Complaints, and Oversight

Councilors noted persistent resistance to reform within CPD, slow progress on consent decree compliance (currently 16%), and the continued street presence of officers with multiple complaints. They will push for public access to officer complaint records and stronger oversight of performance.

While supporting officers as individuals, the council emphasized the need for accountability given the authority and power they hold.

Action Items

- Continuing outreach and preparation for August events, including August 6 backpack packing and Facebook promotion
- Finalize DSP draft and prepare for public presentation
- Formalized proposal for annual civil rights and use-of-force training
- Coordinate with the Innocence Project to secure an exonerated speaker for an upcoming meeting
- Expand outreach to underrepresented communities and collect public feedback
- Continue building partnerships for alternative crisis response and plan site visits
- Follow up on requests for officer disciplinary records and advocate for stricter oversight

Next Meeting:

Date: Saturday, August 16, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: Church of Good Shepherd, 5700 S. Prairie Avenue

Meeting Adjourned: 7:03 PM