

CITY OF CHICAGO
DISTRICT COUNCIL 002

COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Special Closed

Date: October 14, 2025

Location: Washington Park Field House, 5531 S King Drive.

Start Time: 6:04 PM

Adjournment: 7:01 PM

Attendance & Quorum

In accordance with the Open Meetings Act (OMA), a quorum requires at least two of the three members to be physically present.

District Council Member	In-Person	Remote	Absent
Ephraim Lee (Chair)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marquinn McDonald (Nominator)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alexander Perez (Community Engagement)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Quorum Met: Yes No

Total Attendees: 9 (including 1 CPD Commander Williams)

Public Comment: N/A

The meeting officially opened at 6:04 PM with a quorum established (Lee, Perez, McDonald). Minutes from the September 30, 2025, meeting were reviewed and approved.

Community Discussion

CPD and ICE Collaboration in Sanctuary City

Community Concerns:

Scarlet expressed concerns regarding reports of the Chicago Police Department's collaboration with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). She cited videos showing police presence at protests where tear gas was used and raised questions about accountability and transparency. Community members have noted an increase in fear and skepticism due to recent events and media coverage.

Council and CPD Response:

Chair Lee and Commander Williams reaffirmed that CPD does **not** assist ICE in enforcement or apprehensions related to immigration status, in accordance with the mayoral directive. They clarified that any CPD presence at incidents involving ICE has been solely for public safety or scene security purposes, not for enforcement collaboration.

At recent incidents—including those in Broadview and at city protests—CPD officers were themselves affected by tear gas deployed by federal agents; CPD did not deploy tear gas. Officers are required to wear full uniforms (except detectives) to distinguish them from federal agents in tactical attire.

Additional Clarifications:

CPD tactical and street officers are prohibited from wearing plain clothes at protests to prevent confusion with federal personnel. Any officers observed in non-standard uniforms likely belong to other agencies or specialized response teams.

Community members inquired about the increased presence of officers identified as the “Crisis Incident Response Team” (CIRT) at downtown protests.

Commander Williams explained that CIRT—formerly known as the Priority Response Teams—is a longstanding citywide unit deployed at large events, including protests, parades, and concerts. The name change reflects organizational updates, but the function remains the same.

District Council Updates

Chair, Ephraim Lee

The council reviewed proposed 2026 meeting dates for January through December and invited the public to provide feedback before finalization in November. Members discussed posting the finalized dates online for accessibility and awareness.

A proposal was introduced to rotate officer roles (Chair, Community Engagement, Nomination Committee) in May 2026 as part of the annual cycle. The rotation aims to keep leadership fresh and collaborative. Public input may be gathered via a community survey before the vote.

Budget and Public Input

Approximately \$5,000 remains in the FY2025 district council budget. The council plans to hold a **special public meeting within two weeks** to gather input and determine spending priorities. Suggested allocations include community giveaways, citizen awards, engagement events, and promotional materials.

Council members emphasized transparency and participatory budgeting, mirroring the accountability expected from CPD.

Nominating Committee, Marquinn McDonald

Recent and Ongoing Activities:

Recent events included a backpack giveaway, women’s safety workshops, pumpkin patch collaborations with It Takes a Village, and various Halloween and block party events. The city is piloting a Halloween safety program featuring activation sites, youth trolleys, and a structured 10:30 PM curfew.

To improve communication, the council plans to post event details online and share them through neighborhood networks such as Next Door and block club chats.

Partnerships:

Collaborations continue with organizations including Good Kids Mad City, the Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce, and Watchguard Chicago. The council is planning future “Coffee with a Councilor” sessions at local venues like Dunkin’ and Sip & Savor.

District Strategic Plan (DSP) Engagement

Councilor Perez reported on the district’s collaboration with a coalition—including former CPD members—to develop and submit recommendations for the CPD’s District Strategic Plan. These recommendations, which focus on equity, accountability, and reform, have been formally endorsed by the Civilian Commission for Public Safety and Accountability (CCPSA).

The city has introduced standardized feedback forms for all “community conversation” meetings to improve data collection and transparency.

Upcoming Community Conversations:

- **October 22, 2025, 6:00 PM:** Oakwood Shores Community Center, 3825 S. Vincennes
- **November 22, 2025, 1:00 PM:** Washington Park Refectory, 5531 S. Russell

Only 20 residents participated in last year's DSP events out of 140,000 district residents, underscoring the need for improved outreach. The DSP documents are now translated into Spanish and Mandarin and are available on CPD's updated website.

Community Engagement, Alexander Perez

The council partnered with the Freedom to Move Coalition for a **Brake Light Repair Clinic**, serving 25 vehicles to reduce minor traffic stops that could lead to unnecessary citations.

Council members also attended the **Public Safety Fair** at CPD Headquarters alongside CFD and first responders. Plans are underway to host additional "Coffee with a Councilor" and vehicle maintenance events, such as free oil change clinics.

Know Your Rights Training (Postponed)

The scheduled session with Carl Williams of the Chicago Torture and Justice Center was canceled at the last minute. The council plans to reschedule in collaboration with organizations such as the Resurrection Project and Huma Medics. Future sessions may also include community-led discussions and first aid/CPR workshops.

CPD Engagement and Performance

The council praised its improved relationship with newly appointed Commander Williams, who has established regular monthly meetings with council leadership. Councilor Perez was recognized for exceptional outreach and engagement efforts.

Community Training Observation Day (CTOD):

Residents are invited to attend CPD's hands-on training event on **October 25, 2025**, featuring de-escalation, traffic stop, and crisis intervention simulations. Attendees will have opportunities for direct Q&A with officers.

Crime and Safety Data

As of **October 14, 2025**, violent crime statistics showed significant improvement:

- **Murders:** 341 year-to-date (down 27% from 472 in 2024)
- **Shootings:** 1,217 year-to-date (down 36% from 1,899 in 2024)

These represent the lowest citywide numbers in 22 years. Council and CPD leadership attribute progress to improved oversight, professionalization, and community collaboration.

Action Items

- Finalize and publish 2026 meeting dates by the November 15 meeting.
 - Hold a **Special Budget Meeting** before the end of October to allocate remaining funds.
 - Post community event information online and via social media for transparency.
 - Launch a **Community Engagement Survey** to collect input on officer role rotations and budget priorities.
 - Reschedule the **Know Your Rights Training** and confirm the new date within 48 hours.
 - Expand engagement initiatives, including additional “Coffee with a Councilor” sessions and automotive clinics.
 - Share DSP recommendations and feedback forms publicly through newsletters and the council website.
 - Compile and distribute ICE/immigration and First Amendment training resources in partnership with relevant agencies.
 - Promote participation in the upcoming **Community Training Observation Day**.
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Upcoming Meetings and Events

- **Special Budget Meeting:** By the end of October 2025 (date to be announced).
 - **Regular November Council Meeting:** Saturday, November 15, 2025, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, King Branch Library.
 - **District Strategic Plan Conversations:**
 - October 22, 2025 – Oakwood Shores Community Center
 - November 22, 2025 – Washington Park Refectory
 - **Chicago Police Board/COPA Monthly Meeting:** Thursday, October 16, 2025, 7:30 PM, 3510 S. Michigan Ave.
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Additional Notes

Council members emphasized that all materials shared with the public must also be posted online to ensure transparency. Attendees and councilors stressed the importance of community perception and participation, especially regarding police accountability and engagement.

Residents were encouraged to help increase turnout for strategic planning meetings and to share information through neighborhood networks.

