

**CITY OF CHICAGO**

**DISTRICT COUNCIL 002**

**COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

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**MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting Type:**  Regular     Special     Closed

**Date:** December 11, 2025

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

**Start Time:** 6:11 PM

**Adjournment:** 7:32 PM

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**Attendance and Quorum**

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

<b>District Council Member</b>	<b>In Person</b>	<b>Remote</b>	<b>Absent</b>
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:** 19 (including CPD Commander Williams)

**Public Comment:** Not applicable

**Approval of Prior Minutes:**

All three District Council members unanimously approved minutes from the October 14, 2025, meeting.

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**Presenter:** Dr. Laura Kunard, Project Director, Independent Monitoring Team (IMT)

## **Overview of the Consent Decree**

The Consent Decree is a comprehensive, court-ordered legal framework mandating reforms within the Chicago Police Department and related city agencies. It includes approximately 800 requirements addressing training, policy, procedures, data usage, community interactions, crisis intervention, and accountability. A new investigatory staff section added two years ago expanded oversight authority.

## **Historical Background**

The Consent Decree originated from a U.S. Department of Justice investigation conducted between 2015 and 2017 following high-profile incidents involving CPD. After federal prosecution lapsed due to administrative changes, the State of Illinois—under then Attorney General Lisa Madigan—filed suit against the City of Chicago. This resulted in the current federal Consent Decree, monitored by Judge Rebecca Paul Meyer. The Independent Monitoring Team, led by Maggie Hickey and represented at the meeting by Dr. Kennard, serves as the court’s independent oversight body.

## **Role and Scope of the Independent Monitoring Team**

The IMT conducts monthly federal court hearings that alternate between virtual and in-person formats and include opportunities for public comment. The team evaluates compliance across multiple agencies, including CPD, OEMC, COPA, the Chicago Police Board, CCPSA, and the Office of the Inspector General. Public compliance reports are issued twice annually.

## **Methodology and Assessment**

Compliance is evaluated through document review, training verification, field practice assessment, and follow-up analysis. Each requirement is assessed based on policy development, personnel training, and implementation in daily practice.

## **Key Findings and Challenges**

As of October 2025, full compliance stands at approximately 23 percent, reflecting improvement but remaining behind the original five-year goal. Major challenges include translating policy and training into consistent field practice, particularly in supervision and accountability.

Sustainability requirements mandate that reforms be maintained for one to two years before being deemed complete. Ongoing concerns include supervisory effectiveness and data quality. COVID-19 disruptions extended the compliance timeline from five to eight years, with further extensions anticipated.

## **Enforcement and Accountability**

Enforcement authority rests solely with the federal judge and may include fines, contempt proceedings, or public hearings. The City of Chicago and the Mayor remain under federal court jurisdiction regardless of political leadership. Transparency, judicial oversight, and public engagement remain critical accountability mechanisms.

## **Public Engagement and Transparency**

Monthly court hearings are open to the public, with sign-up information available on the IMT website. Reports and findings are publicly posted. The IMT conducts a biennial citywide survey with intentional oversampling of Black males ages 18–25. Survey results showed public confidence in CPD at 37 percent in 2020, declining to 20 percent in 2022, and increasing to 35 percent in 2024.

## **Special Topics and Data Initiatives**

Early intervention systems focused on officer wellness remain underdeveloped. COPA investigates individual misconduct complaints, while the IMT oversees systemic accountability. A public use-of-force dashboard has improved data transparency. Focus groups supplement survey findings, including outreach to youth, individuals with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations.

## **Upcoming Milestones**

The next Independent Monitor Report (IMR 13) is scheduled for publication in April 2026. The next citywide community perceptions survey will be administered in early 2026. Monthly court hearings and compliance updates will continue.

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# **District Council Members' Updates**

## **Community Engagement and Year-in-Review**

During 2025, the District hosted nine council events, a 50 percent increase from the previous year, along with five collaborative community events. Councilors led a citywide coalition to revise the District Strategic Plan, translating it into English, Spanish, and Chinese and expanding online access. Over 80 percent of district councils approved the revised recommendations, which were submitted to CPD for implementation and monitoring.

## **Mental Health Response and CARE Program**

The CARE program transitioned from COVID-relief funding to permanent corporate budget support. Expansion from four to eight CARE vans is planned, with citywide, 24/7 coverage anticipated in 2026. District 2 will be included in the expansion. Planning is underway for a 2026 summit involving CPD, OEMC, the Fire Department, district councilors, and national partners.

Weekly working group meetings with the Department of Public Health and city leadership continue.

## **Workforce Allocation Study**

CPD has partnered with an external agency to conduct its first comprehensive workforce allocation study. District councils are participating to ensure transparency and community input. The study will assess deployment, resource gaps, and community impact, with a final report expected in mid-2026. Early findings and surveys are publicly available.

## **Petition Regarding CPD and ICE**

Councilors reported an ongoing petition drive nearing 2,000 signatures to trigger a public hearing regarding alleged CPD collaboration with ICE during Midway Airport operations. Residents are encouraged to participate.

## **Support for Black-Owned Businesses**

Recent break-ins targeted seven Black-owned businesses in one night. Sip & Savor Coffee Shop faces potential closure due to repeated burglaries. District councilors are organizing support events and exploring coalition-building among Black business owners.

## **Crime Trends and Public Safety Data**

As of December 8, 2025, Chicago reported 392 homicides, a significant reduction from 621 two years prior. The city's population-adjusted target remains approximately 300 homicides. Councilors emphasized sustained reform, compliance, and community engagement.

## **Community Commission Recruitment**

Applications remain open for Community Commission members, with emphasis on North Side representation and youth applicants ages 18–24. Applicants must not have been employed by CPD, COPA, or the Police Board within the past five years. The application deadline is February 6, 2026.

## **Upcoming Events and Outreach**

“Coffee with a Councilor” is scheduled for December 13 from 10:00 to 11:30 AM at Sip & Savor, 47th Street and Michigan Avenue. A Washington Park Toy Giveaway will take place the same day from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the Washington Park Field House.

## **Community Concerns and Accountability**

Community concerns included youth safety, violence, and police accountability. Reference was made to a pending wrongful death lawsuit involving Officer Crystal Rivera. Councilors reaffirmed their commitment to transparency and systemic accountability.

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## Next Steps

The Independent Monitoring Team will continue biannual reporting, public engagement, and compliance evaluation. District councils will continue sharing District Strategic Plan recommendations, participating in mental health and workforce allocation working groups, advocating for CARE expansion, and coordinating community and business support initiatives. Recruitment for the Community Commission and petition outreach regarding CPD-ICE collaboration will continue.

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## Next Meeting

The next District Council monthly meeting is scheduled for **January 17, 2026**, at the Washington Park Refectory, 5331 S. Russell Drive, Chicago, Illinois.

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## Closing

Councilors thanked community members, presenters, and partners for their engagement throughout 2025. The meeting concluded with holiday well-wishes and encouragement for continued civic participation, including a quotation from Maya Angelou emphasizing resilience and perseverance. Attendees were reminded to visit the District Council and IMT websites for reports, updates, and future events.