

# CITY OF CHICAGO

## DISTRICT COUNCIL 018

## COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

### MEETING MINUTES

**Meeting Type:** ☒ Regular ☐ Special ☐ Closed

**Meeting Date:** August 26, 2025

**Meeting Location & Address:** Newberry Math & Science Academy, 700 W. Willow Street

**Meeting Start Time:** 6:04 PM

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### Attendance & Quorum

Per the Open Meetings Act (OMA), a quorum requires at least two of the three members to be present in person.

- Brad Kessler (Chair) – Present
- Karen Kane (Community Engagement) – Present
- Bob Johnson (Nominator) – Present

### Quorum confirmed.

Multiple community members were present both in person and via Zoom.

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### Approval of Minutes

- July meeting minutes approved unanimously.
  - September meeting date moved from Sept. 24 to Sept. 22 (due to Rosh Hashanah); approved unanimously.
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### Public Comment

#### Residential Burglaries

- Evelyn, McCullen Association President (Hal, Orchard, Burling): Reported a string of daytime burglaries believed to be linked to the same crew. Requested stronger communication and urgent police intervention.

- Wayne Meyer, Retired Judge/Prosecutor: Highlighted the impact of property crime on vulnerable populations, emphasized the importance of reporting all incidents, and shared burglary prevention tips.

### **Chronic Drug-Related Issues**

- Linda Siebert Rapaport, East Division block representative: Raised concerns about ongoing drug activity at Division & Clark, and near Taco Bell. Requested more visible police presence, updates on patrol plans, and public information on long-term strategies.
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### **Council Member Updates**

#### **Bob Johnson**

- Reported on nominating committee activities related to 2026 commission vacancies.
- Discussed the CARE mental health initiative and the proposed “Rapid Alternate Response Program” to shift non-emergency complaints away from CPD.

#### **Karen Kane**

- Attended CCPSA City Commission meeting; voiced 18th District opposition to new restrictions on traffic stops (based on survey of 1,300+ residents, 66% opposed).
- Shared details of a new citywide survey (QR codes available) and encouraged strong local participation.
- announced the next CCPSA citywide meeting at DePaul College Prep on August 29.

#### **Brad Kessler**

- Reported on collaborative efforts to combat repeat retail theft along Division Street and Michigan Avenue.
  - Shared findings from FOIA requests on Michigan Avenue protests: only three events were properly permitted out of hundreds since 2022. Advocacy for transparency and enforcement will continue.
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### **Presentation: Detective Mike Shields – Burglary Trends & CPD Detective Process**

#### **Background**

- I am a 25-year CPD veteran, currently an Area 3 detective.

#### **Recent Burglary Patterns**

- Confirmed presence of a sophisticated burglary crew targeting affluent residential areas.
- Crew tactics include disguises, stolen license plates, fast entry/exit, and frequent vehicle changes.
- Noted seasonal patterns (crew winters in Miami).

### **Case & Prosecution Challenges**

- Several members charged: investigations ongoing.
- Effective prosecution requires video evidence with clear facial images. Community video sharing is essential.
- Noted improvements in communication and charging consistency under the new State's Attorney administration.

### **Prevention Recommendations**

- Install video surveillance (even low-cost systems like Ring).
- Always lock doors—including in high-rises.
- Be cautious of opportunistic thieves linked to delivery personnel.

### **Resource Constraints**

- Detective staffing remains limited, with each property crimes detective handling multiple new cases daily.

### **Community Engagement**

- Detective Shields remained after the meeting for private, case-specific questions.

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## **Presentation: Commander Chris Biefeldt – District Strategies & Updates**

### **Background**

- Recently returned to lead the 18th District; praised the community's engagement and support.

### **Crime Trends**

- **Burglaries:** Primarily daytime; emphasized prevention and target-hardening.
- **Robberies:** Concentrated in River North/bar district, often linked to intoxicated victims.
- **Drug/Nuisance Corridors:** Longstanding issues at Division & Clark addressed through dispersals, arrests, and requests for long-term investigations.

### **Air and Water Show (August 2025)**

- Successful, no arrests or citations.
- Main challenge: severe traffic congestion after the event.
- Staffing: 200+ officers, mostly from outside the district, including specialized units.

## Recognition

- Training facility at Chicago Ave. & Costner named for the late Commander Bauer.
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## District Council Resources & Feedback

- Residents encouraged them to complete the citywide survey on CPD traffic stop restrictions.
  - The public is invited to attend or join via Zoom for the August 29 CCPSA Citywide Commission meeting.
  - Urged reporting of all property crimes, regardless of scale.
  - Security reminders: install exterior cameras, keep doors locked, and share surveillance videos when possible.
  - Council members and CPD personnel are available after the meeting for informal Q&A.
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## Community Concerns

- **Retail Theft:** Ongoing multi-agency collaboration; updates to follow.
  - **FOIA/Permitting:** Continued push for transparency regarding large unpermitted gatherings on Michigan Avenue.
  - **Staffing:** Council advocating for stronger detective resources for property crimes.
  - **Future Meetings:** September meeting confirmed for Sept. 22, 2025. Nominating committee activities are ongoing.
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## Future Meetings

- **Next CPD District Council Public Meeting:** September 22, 2025
  - **CCPSA Citywide Commission Meeting:** August 29, 2025, at DePaul College Prep (in-person and Zoom access).
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## Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

The council expressed gratitude to Detective Shields, Commander Bielfeldt, Sergeant Shienk, school staff, technical team, and all community members for their participation.