

**CITY OF CHICAGO DISTRICT COUNCIL 024
COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

MEETING MINUTES MEETING TYPE: xRegular Special Closed

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, May 21st, 2025

MEETING LOCATION & ADDRESS: Warren Park 6601 N Western, Chicago, IL 60645

MEETING START TIME: 6:02 PM

District Council Member Name	Attendance		
CHAIR: Veronica Arreola	Present: X	Remote: <input type="checkbox"/>	Absent: <input type="checkbox"/>
NOMINATOR: Rev. Marilyn-Pagan Banks	Present: x	Remote: <input type="checkbox"/>	Absent: <input type="checkbox"/>
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: Keola Jean Joseph	Present: x	Remote: <input type="checkbox"/>	Absent: <input type="checkbox"/>

Quorum (2 out of 3 Members): X Yes No

Public Comment:

Bill: Commented on the need for organizations to cooperate rather than compete; questioned about cooperation with the CAHPS program, but was reminded that public comment was not for Q&A.

Community Member: Urged council to consider "criminogenic" nature of crime enforcement and push for police accountability. Emphasized the need for COP Watch trainings and inclusion of such efforts in anti-criminalization work, noting a lack of such trainings, particularly for Black communities.

Vote: Approved April Meeting Minutes

District Councilor Updates

a. Community Safety & Visibility Survey Initiative in response to recent criminal sexual assaults. Community members are encouraged to use a QR-code-enabled survey to identify unsafe areas (e.g., lighting outages, overgrown landscaping). Results to be forwarded to aldermen for remediation.

b. Budget and Strategic Planning Engagement Attended Public Safety Health Budget meeting: Discussed redirecting CPD vacancy funds toward care programs, especially via the Department of Public Health. Meeting with CCPSA staff for an overview of the District Strategic Plan (DSP). c. Community Partnership Updates Engagements with "Treatment Not Trauma" for possible collaborations and presentations at the council and Northside

Community Partnership Updates Engagements with "Treatment Not Trauma" for possible collaborations and presentations at council and Northside region meetings. Met with "Water for All" coalition: Acute concerns about rising water bills and unsafe drinking water in marginalized communities. Pretrial Fairness Act: Hosted court watch training, ongoing work to defend the Act, and inform the community.

d. Housing Justice Advocacy Participation in "Just Cause" press conference regarding anti-eviction efforts; personal story of being "renovicted". Emphasized the trauma and public safety implications of housing displacement.

Community Events

Carnival event held (moved to May for next year based on feedback), despite cold weather, was successful. "A Just Harvest" to host safety and wellness events (June, every Saturday, 11–3, including free community meals 12–2). Plans for Freedom School and National Night Out in August; call for volunteers to help extend events into July and August. Noted the importance of proactively building community to prevent summer violence/anxiety.

Restorative Justice Court

Progress reported on establishing a restorative justice court in Cook County. Ongoing coordination with county entities; optimism expressed for near-future developments.

District Strategic Plan (DSP) Presentation & Feedback Session

a. Overview of DSP:

Purpose: Annual guideline for crime reduction strategy and community engagement—includes community's role in policing strategy.

Mandate: Required by consent decree (CPD Special Order 020302).

Development: Involves two community meetings:

First: Plan overview developed.

Second: Community reviews the overview.

Multiple layers of feedback: Commanders, Office of Community Policing, and District Advisory Committee.

Annual document, made public both online (with QR codes) and in print.

Structure of DSP:

Problem Solving Priorities: Rationale, root causes, strategies, and measurable metrics.

Community Engagement: CPD selects stakeholder focus (e.g., youth, elderly, businesses, domestic violence survivors, affinity groups).

Resource Allocation: How the district allocates resources to address crime.

Reporting: Quarterly reports to the Office of Community Policing and the public portal.

c. Opportunities for Improvement:

Councilors outlined the need for more robust community input, higher accessibility, better metrics for progress, follow-through, and transparency. 2024 and 2025 commission goals: Strong emphasis on improving special order for DSPs and ensuring community involvement in revisions.

d. Community Q&A & Feedback:

Robustness of Community Conversations: Concerns raised over limited participation (6–10 people per meeting in past years)—requests for metrics, outreach expansion, and inclusion of more organizations (e.g., A Just Harvest).

Community Engagement Recommendations:

Direct outreach to street organizations and repeated engagement.

Community Requests & Police Department Follow-up:

Officers should increase on-foot, bike, and direct neighborhood engagement (vs. remaining in vehicles).

DSP Accessibility Suggestions:

Shorten and simplify document for public use.

Promote via social media, library and alderperson websites, faith organizations, and parent groups.

Presentation during aldermanic meetings suggested.

CPD Progress Reporting:

Requests for regular updates on DSP progress in accessible community venues.

Ongoing promotion and accountability through various community channels.

Root Causes Emphasis:

Councilors and community agreed root causes (housing, utilities, poverty, marginalization) must be core to public safety plan, not merely criminal enforcement. Noted lack of root cause analysis in DSP (e.g., "gangs/drug dealing" being listed as problems rather than symptoms).

5. Future Meeting Plans & Discussion Topics

Next Quarterly Citywide DC Meeting: June (date TBD), DCs to gather feedback from community meetings for collective discussion.

August Meeting at A Just Harvest: Planned for August 24 (last Sunday in August), to focus on outreach and engagement of those affected by criminalization and street economies ("on the block table conversations"). Intake of community input on direct outreach and possible engagement strategies, especially with marginalized groups. Potential for mini-press and active participation from youth (possibly post-Freedom School). The event will include food; possibly a cookout.

Action Items

- Track Progress on Community Requests: Continue follow-up regarding ICE coordination and surveillance camera list.
- Collect Input for DSP Revisions: Gather more detailed community feedback on engagement, accessibility, and content of DSP for upcoming June citywide meeting.
- Develop Outreach Plan: Prepare strategies for direct engagement with affected community members and organizations for both current DSP improvements and August meeting.
- August Meeting Planning: Enlist volunteers and reach out to targeted community groups for the August meeting at A Just Harvest; integrate on-the-block conversations and food/social elements.

NEXT MEETING DATE: June 22nd

NEXT MEETING LOCATION: Edgewater Library 6000 N Broadway

DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING ENDED AT: 7:32 PM