

**CITY OF CHICAGO
DISTRICT COUNCIL #017
COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

Peace Circle Notes (taken w/ participant agreement w/ no names attached)

What does safety look like to you?

- Knowing that family is ok
- Being able to not worry about things
- Knowing nothing bad is happening

When do you feel unsafe?

- When I see people arguing, fighting, driving crazy, when there is tension
- Dangerous places, police and fire trucks and ambulances make me feel a lil safe, but I know
- When I hear things on the news about kidnappings, or harming each other, even if it's
- just for walks
- When I'm alone and by myself at the train station and there are no lights, also hearing about sexual assaults

What do you do to keep yourself safe?

- Connecting with people, if I'm on public transportation, I'd try to wait near another person on the Brown Line. I try to pay attention to the other people too
- I bring my friends with me because I don't like being alone. There are lots of what if situations. I try to keep my bag and phone with me so I can throw it at someone and run off.
- Yes, I also go places with my friends
- I avoid dark places and don't go to many places alone. If I'm alone, I always let someone know where I'm going

Is there anything the Mayor or the City can do to make people safer?

- Position was created to hold police accountable and that includes making sure young people have a voice in how they want to feel safe – that's why we are having the circle today – so we can hear your ideas.
- Repair the sidewalks, if you're running from a dangerous situation it's likely you'd fall. We need more lights too.

- I see cameras around and I don't think they work, so officers are often asking us for evidence. More cameras are needed so you can see more things.
- Need safer crosswalks and bollards on the corners of sidewalks to help keep pedestrians safe.
- More welcoming spaces where young people can be safely without adults watching you.

Do you feel safe in your school? Is there anything that you'd like to see in your school to feel safer?

- Address bullying
- There is bullying and I'm more worried about school shootings, it's terrifying to know there are threats here sometimes. Security here is alright. Police
- Yes, bullying – lots of rude remarks to other people. It's not physically endangering someone, it's mentally endangering someone
- Yes, I agree, some people are just mean to other people or people make something out to be something it's not and they make it a joke. Sometimes you can take it to an adult and sometimes they don't take it seriously I do physically space in the school – even w/ school shootings, the school does well.

Between school and your home what safety issues are there?

- Terrible impatient drivers
- Lots of arguing and physical fights in alleys, arguing over traffic lights.
- We don't have fence around my house, so lots of people are always using the area around our house as shortcuts. Our car was set on fire when there was a fight. There were cameras but they don't work and we didn't get answers.
- Bad drivers

How can adults, the city or the police department do better to make sure you and more young people are heard?

- More peace circles like this can help young people feel heard.
- Just take us seriously when we bring up concerns. I know officers go through a lot but they should just listen instead of getting angry
- Adults should remove expectations they have of young people, so they can have a clear mind to offer better solutions.
- Yes, adults should try not to get mad at us – we don't usually get to share like this
- Building relationships helps us not accuse one another, judge one another or have a bias. Not sure how this relationship building goal is going though

Last round – anything you want to say or add in response to anything previously said

- There are adults in every neighborhood that do want to make the city and neighborhoods safer. We do have to keep working on building relationships especially w/ young people so you can tell us.
- I do feel safe here – security respond quickly when fights break out. Lots of fights happen / start online

Adult take aways

- Release expectations of young people -
- Adults that don't take young people seriously and officers that get angry are inappropriate behaviors
- Glad you feel safe at school – not everyone does
- Want police to be responsive to you instead of getting angry and dismissing your things
- The environmental structures that don't exist that can help make people feel safe – working cameras, safe intersections and safe sidewalks. Also yes, the bad drivers make me feel unsafe.
- Yes, agree that we need to release expectations and want more adults to meet young people wherever you are.
- Built environment, and also the emotional environment - there is so much inability to hear and listen each other that it escalates into violence
- Teachers and students need to work harder to build relationships – hearing the perspective from students that they don't feel like they are listened to was eye opening.

Approving Minutes

No quorum – can't vote on minutes

Councilor Rochford Updates

- Gina Pedemonte appointed to replace outgoing Commissioner Kelley Presley
- Community engagement work
 - Violence Prevention event in Roosevelt HS on 2/14
 - Upcoming event w/ ALSO at Patrick Henry – KYR
- District Strategic Plans
 - Process to get community engagement is not thorough
 - Product is poor – no metrics to measure progress on goals
 - Lack of updates and follow up is poor and does not include community
- District Strategic Plan for 017 will be shared in April and need feedback on 017s plan to improve the DSP and the follow up
- GO1-11 – the CPD general order that guides how each district works with their

DCs goes into effect in March. Means that Commander (or a rep) will be at future district council meetings

- Commander w/ be at April Meeting
- Gave public comment at a consent decree hearing – lack of progress on consent decree, no credit for the DSP plan when it's so poor, Judge Pallmeyer asked both sides to be patient and for continued active involvement
- Next Commission Meeting is March 27 at 6pm at Dusable Museum
- Next Traffic Stops Listening Session is on March 19 at Tilden High School
- Working w/ community organizations to ensure neighbors know their rights around immigration issues Albany Park Defense Network, OLM, Hana Center, Communities United.

Update on priorities sent to Commission

Building trust through transparent justice – increasing clearance rates

Education on clearance rates, work w/ state and CPD, Commission will make recommendations based on research on best practices to increase clearance rates. Area 5 detectives being invited to a future 014 meeting. Should 017 partner with them for this meeting? Interest from attendees for this idea. Research shows that when officers are in community w/ neighbors, better results are achieved.

Mediation for low level complaints

Included in CCPSA's goals for COPA – ensure DCs are engaged in the design and implementation of the mediation program. It's going poorly – participated in a meeting to share recommendations for community listening sessions. Recommendations were not listened to and feedback was not taken seriously – besides not great meeting location – it's also on same meeting date of Commission meeting.

Transfer investigation of officers involved w/ extremist groups from BIA to COPA

Commission looking for new chief administrator of COPA. Commission will train on GO8, work w/ BIA to

Working w/ Sully from ECPS who is looking for attorneys to draft ordinance language that could move investigations from BIA to COPA

Other updates

- Shared that there is a proposed ordinance (introduced by Napolitano?) that will gut COPA. Consent decree partners say this is not possible bc consent decree says COPA must do the investigations.
- Also shared that there is a proposed ordinance to re-organize the District

Councils by area vs districts

Public Comment

Grace:

- Did Anthony tell you he wasn't going to be here today? How many official meetings have there been this year? (January and February, so 2)
 - No quorum meetings in 2024 March, June, August, October (need to double check)
- Like the idea of joint meeting w/ 014 w/ Area 5 Detectives.
- Betacourt expressed concern of Ramozzo (Oath Keeper in community policing role, constituents concerned – is this best role for him?) What's follow up?
- Concerns about officers who cleared out Gompers Park pushed someone, also came from behind and picked up a person to arrest them. Victims did not want to file complaints – witnesses can though.

Resident:

- Asked for update on recent events at Gompers Park Encampment
- Beth was asked to be at AME (accelerated moving event) on Ash Wednesday said she'd be there at 9:30am. Heard that at 4:30am officers shined light in cars and threatened evacuation. Beth handed out COPA cards to them. City said there'd just be AME and an affinity officer at the park. When Beth returned after church, there was a patrol car parked that stayed and left. A community member witnessed verbal aggression from officers and was not allowed into parking lot to witness and support the unhoused residents.
- Spoke to District Commander who thought it was a clean up. Clean ups need 48 hour notice and no tents taken down unless in the public way. Believes Commander does not understand difference between AME and clean up. Affinity officer had a previous engagement and other CAPS officers were sent instead.
- Constituent asked to confirm if officers are at clean up. AME is typically social workers and housing coordinators and usually happens inside for activities like ensuring city key and being on a list for housing etc. Constituent was told that 8-9 officers could be brought down to 1 officers for the AME event. Unclear why 8-9 officers arrived at 4:30am to harass the people in tents. Commander encouraged Beth to encourage the unhoused folks to file complaints w/ COPA.
- Request from constituent for more accountability for the officers who are aggressive towards the Gompers residents. Commander could look at body cam footage and discipline officers himself. COPA and public shaming at a future meeting. Beth recommended attendees read page 26 of the 29 page dsp which addresses how officer will treat people who are unhoused.
- Constituents shared concerns about co councilor not in attendance – what accountability is there for situations like this? Base requirement is to hold the

monthly meeting and if that's not happening, it can show up in public comments.

- Constituent request for cop watching training efforts and encouragement of direct confrontation w/ officers during immigration raids
- Constituent request for a guest speaker from NW housing to provide guidance on how to be supportive to unhoused neighbors.
- Beth may bring CARE team to present
- Constituent asked for clarity about Commander (or a rep) presence at every meeting. Beth explained if constituents want can ask Commander NOT to come though needs a reason to share. Constituent feel uncomfortable w/ Commander being in meeting when the Commander also supported the officer in 017 that is associated Oath Keepers.