

CITY OF CHICAGO
DISTRICT COUNCIL 004
COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY
MEETING MINUTES

MEETING TYPE: X Regular ☐ Special ☐ Closed

MEETING DATE: 11/22/2025

MEETING LOCATION & ADDRESS: 1215 East 83rd street

MEETING START TIME: 12:00 pm

Attendance & Quorum

The OMA Meeting cannot take place without 2 out of 3 members present in person.

District Council Member Name	Attendance
Chair: Lovie Bernard	Present: x Remote: <input type="checkbox"/> Absent: <input type="checkbox"/>
Nominator: Gloria Jenkins	Present: x Remote: <input type="checkbox"/> Absent: <input type="checkbox"/>
Community Engagement: Brenda Waters	Present: x Remote: <input type="checkbox"/> Absent: <input type="checkbox"/>

Quorum (2 out of 3 Members): Yes: x No: ☐

Public Comment

Resident 1: Spoke on violence in the 004th District by youth and the need for support for the youth

Rabi Michael Yosef spoke on his community work and his future political plans

Resident 2: from Free My People Ministries spoke on their Trauma informed healing classes for the community and outreach efforts,

004th Police District Community Organizer Ed Stanfod spoke on efforts to work with Violence interrupters to stop the violence and restorative justice efforts and programs that are being implemented. He also asked for assistance from the community.

Sidney Brookes spoke on how the community failed the family and the need for community leaders to be out giving proper information where services can be found. Also community leaders need to advocate for each other as a whole and help families in the district when they aren't being helped in the schools or by the police.

Approval of Minutes N/A

Discussions

Attendees: Community organizations, case workers, district council members, representatives from the Mayor's Office, Department of Family Support & Services (DFSS), Department of Public Health, outreach workers, Chicago Police Department (4th District), family members affected by recent violence, community members, and additional stakeholders.

Main Topics Discussed

- Support for Families Impacted by Violence
 - Overview of Support Services:
 - Ms. Sanderson and her team provide extensive support to families affected by violence, including transportation, temporary housing, counseling, support for unemployment due to trauma, and relocation when necessary.
 - Their goal is to restore some sense of normalcy and instill coping skills without negating the trauma experienced.
 - The current focus is on supporting the Lee family and especially their children following a recent traumatic incident.
- Wraparound Services:
 - Examples include assistance with moving, employment resources, and direct trauma counseling.
 - Emphasis on building stability, particularly for children affected by violence or the loss of a parent.
- Community Events and Resources
 - Turkey Giveaway: Scheduled for Monday, November 24, 2025, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM at 837 West 119th.
 - Over 500 turkeys to be distributed to community members.
 - December to Remember: Planned for December 13, 2025, at Windows Smith School.
 - Last year, over 1,000 toys were distributed to children; a similar turnout is anticipated this year.
 - Events aim to foster community solidarity and provide tangible assistance.
- Recent Incident: Violence Against Mother and Child
 - Details of Incident:
 - A video circulating in the community shows a mother and young child being harmed and followed by a group of youth.
 - Incident underscores urgent issues in youth safety, especially during routes to and from school.
 - The coordinated nature of the attack highlights the need for a robust, community-centered, and restorative response.
- District Council and Community Response:
 - 4th District Council reaffirmed commitment to restorative justice, accountability, and non-traumatizing interventions, especially for minors.
 - Coordination with police, schools, safe passage teams, and violence interrupters.
 - Upcoming Police District Council meeting scheduled for Saturday, November 22 at the local park, focusing on these issues.
- City and Agency Engagement

- DFSS/City Departments:
 - Mark Sanders II (DFSS) described a coordinated resource response, leveraging citywide agencies for both immediate and long-term support.
 - Services span from pregnancy to senior citizens, emphasizing that this is not an isolated issue.
 - 211 helpline highlighted as a referral resource for community support.
- Mayor's Office and Departmental Activation:
 - Kahari Humphries, Deputy Mayor of Education and Youth, mentioned closure of the state-funded Boys and Girls Club at the affected school due to loss of funding in April 2025.
- The city is seeking new ways to reactivate resources and programming in the neighborhood, working with CHA and other partners.
- Events mentioned: Roseland Health Hub activation, Thanksgiving lighting and night event, and increased programming at Jeffrey Manor Library and local parks.
- Community and Stakeholder Input
 - Trauma and Healing Resources:
 - Free My People Ministries and other organizations offering trauma-informed healing circles and afterschool mentoring.
 - Outreach workers (e.g., those wearing lime green) encourage community members, including those not comfortable with police, to engage for support.
- Restorative Justice Initiatives:
 - Ed Stanford (CPD 4th District) described "Breaking into Five," a restorative justice program gathering youth regularly for restorative practices.
 - Key restorative questions: What was the harm? Who was impacted? How to address it? How to prevent it?
 - Violence interrupters, community partners, and outreach programs coordinating with district leaders.
- Community Critique:
 - Multiple speakers, including Sydney Bro (Lawrence Hall), called out past failures in connecting families to help and emphasize the need for proactive, hands-on outreach.
 - Criticism of school and police response, including insufficient follow-up on repeated complaints of bullying and disturbances prior to incident.
 - Security presence in troubled areas cited as inadequate.
- Family Testimonies
 - Statements from the Lee Family and Relatives:
 - Shared experiences reporting bullying for over two years with little response.
 - Challenges discussed: parent work schedules clash with school hours, lack of transportation, feeling of futility after repeated attempts to seek help.
 - Family members, including a cousin, expressed both gratitude for support and concern for community and city-wide prevention.
- Impact on Children:
 - Noted trauma in children, including nightmares and lasting fear.

- Need for ongoing support and healing even after immediate incident passes.
- Funding and Resource Challenges
 - Resource Gaps:
 - Multiple speakers (outreach workers, DFSS, mayor's office) referenced shortages in outreach staff and lost funding for critical youth programs.
 - Stress on the need for advocacy at both local and federal level to maintain and expand intervention programs such as Peacekeepers and the Boys and Girls Club.
- Upcoming Initiatives:
 - Individual mentorship program to launch January 2026 in partnership with DFSS and community groups.
 - Increased focus on bringing mental health services into accessible community settings (e.g., mobile behavioral health vans, library programs).
- Mental Health and Community Health Engagement
 - Destigmatizing Mental Health:
 - Speakers emphasized that mental health encompasses everyday stress, community safety perceptions, and collective trauma—not just clinical diagnoses.
 - Promotion of walk-in services at the recently opened Roseland Public Mental Health Center and intent to bring resources to more easily accessible locations (e.g., Jeffrey Manor Library).
- Accountability, Police, and Security
 - Law Enforcement Perspective:
 - Captain Kevin Berry (CPD 4th District) reassured attendees regarding the seriousness of the investigation, although specifics cannot be publicly shared while it's ongoing.
 - Neighbors recounted difficulty in receiving police response to ongoing disturbances and suggested improvements to emergency dispatch and security patrols.
- Community Policing:
 - Emphasis on the need for collaboration between police, outreach/service agencies, and the broader community.
 - Community policing seen as a shared responsibility, not solely the duty of police.
- Community Action and Moving Forward
 - Calls for Unity:
 - Multiple voices urged shifting from blame to actionable collective responsibility.
 - Encouragement for neighbors to look out for each other, share key contacts, and ensure entire blocks are networked for safety.
 - Importance of ongoing meetings and not just reactively gathering in the wake of tragedy.
 - Advocacy for Youth Engagement:
 - Repeated requests for more mentorship, recreation, and after-school programming, particularly for youth at risk of involvement in violence or bullying.
 - Concerns about generational engagement—encouragement for men and elders to step up as role models and present advocates.

Action Items

- Immediate Family Support:
 - Continue close support to the Lee family and follow up on coping resources for children.
 - Provide and distribute contact cards to affected families for instant access to advocates.
- Community Events:
 - Promote and organize attendance for turkey giveaway (Monday, November 24, 1–4 PM, 837 W 119th) and
 - December toy distribution (Dec 13).
- Restorative Justice Programming:
 - Finalize plans for a strategy meeting between service agencies and community partners before a wider public town hall.
 - Reactivate or replace lost Boys and Girls Club programming at the impacted school.
- Resource and Outreach Coordination:
 - Increase presence of outreach workers and violence interrupters, particularly after school in identified hotspots.
 - Activate and advertise mental health services, particularly mobile and walk-in clinics like Roseland Center.
- Advocacy and Information Sharing:
 - Expand direct, boots-on-the-ground dissemination of resource/contact info, especially in frequently impacted areas.
 - Encourage community members to network with neighbors and district council, not just rely on official channels.
- Mentor Program Launch:
 - Prepare for rollout of individualized mentor programs in January 2026, ensuring adequate coverage of 4th district schools and community centers.
- Sustain Funding:
 - Advocate for passage of city budget to secure continued support for Peacekeepers and similar intervention programs.
 - Pursue additional funding and partnerships to increase capacity of outreach and intervention staff.

Follow-Up Points

- Upcoming Meetings:
 - 4th District Police Council meeting focused on youth safety and violence scheduled for Saturday, November 22, 2025.
- Strategy Session:
 - A strategy meeting to be scheduled among outreach/service agencies and council before organization of larger public sessions.
- City Department Updates:
 - DFSS to announce organizations awarded for mentorship program and clarify new resources for trauma and violence prevention.
- Ongoing Investigations:

- Continued updates and communication with Lee family regarding police and school investigations into the incident.
- Survey Community Resource Needs:
 - Continued listening and data collection to identify priorities for new or expanded services, with an emphasis on using this feedback to inform city budget and resource allocation.

Key Takeaways

- Multi-layered Response is Necessary: Addressing youth violence, bullying, and trauma requires family, school, policing, mental health, and community resources working in concert.
- Sustained Engagement is Critical: One-off meetings and reactions are insufficient; building a resilient support network and proactive programming is essential.
- Outreach and Visibility Matter: Improving boots-on-the-ground efforts, especially among credible messengers and community workers, is key to engagement and safety.
- Resource and Funding Gaps Identified: Many vital programs are constrained by funding or recent cuts. Advocacy for restoration and expansion is ongoing.
- Community Ownership and Collaboration: True safety and healing begin with neighbors, families, and local organizations taking an active, collaborative role.

Notable Quotes & Comments

- “We are a community. We are a tribe... We will always stand by a tribe and work with our tribe to make things better.”
- “We cannot take away the trauma, but we can give a sense of normalcy and coping skills.”
- “Restorative justice is fivefold: what was the harm, who was impacted, how do you address it, how do you prevent it?”
- “Community policing: part the police do, but there’s a part the community does—we must meet together in the middle.”
- “Data equals dollars... The more we voice our needs, the more resources flow to our community.”

Next Steps

- Promotion and attendance at upcoming events, especially the turkey giveaway and the December celebration.
- Strategic planning session for restorative justice and anti-violence programming.
- Community and agency leaders to survey and document resource needs for expanded services.
- Ongoing communication between district council, outreach partners, city departments, and the affected family.
- Mental health resource campaign to designate and encourage use of services, with a focus on accessibility.

Additional Resources Mentioned

- Free My People Ministries: www.freemypeopleministries.org

- DFSS resources: 211 helpline
- Roseland Public Mental Health Center: 115th Street (walk-in, no waitlist)
- Mentorship programs beginning January 2026 (organizations to be announced soon)
- This summary was produced to provide a thorough record of key discussions, plans, and commitments made during the meeting on November 22, 2025. Any omissions are unintentional. For further details, attendees are encouraged to consult the full meeting notes or contact the appropriate district council representative.

Announcement of Next District Council Meeting

NEXT MEETING DATE: December 13, 2025

NEXT MEETING LOCATION (if available): Avalon Park 1215 East 83rd Street

District Council ended the meeting at: 1:30 pm