



VIA EMAIL

November 7, 2025

President Remel Terry
Community Commission for Public Safety and
Accountability 2 N. LaSalle, Suite 960
Chicago, IL 60602

RE: Priority Proposed by the District Councils for the Commission for 2026

Dear President Terry,

Each year, the District Councils are required to delegate one or more members to attend annual meetings with representatives from each District Council to propose priorities for the Commission. 2025 marks the third year the District Councils submitted priority proposals.

This year, District Councils established a regionally representative Planning Team to carry out the preparations and hosting of Quarterly and Annual Meetings and to oversee the priority proposal process. The Planning Team responded to feedback from the Commission, District Councils, and CCPSA staff by implementing a new form for priority proposals, requiring proposals to identify relevant Commission purposes and powers under the CCPSA Ordinance, and raising the threshold for consideration and adoption of a proposal. Proposals required 13 co-sponsors to be considered and 44 votes (67% of District Councilors) to be adopted.

This year, District Councilors submitted four proposals for consideration and adopted one to officially present to the Commission. Listed below is the adopted priority proposal with a brief summary. Enclosed with this letter, you will find all four proposals and breakdown of District Councilor votes.

1. Build Community Trust and Transparency with Push Notifications

Proposed by Jason Huff, DC 008

Supported by 48 Councilors, representatives of 22 DCs, majorities of 18 DCs, consensuses of 3 DCs

This proposal aims to have the City of Chicago (OEMC working with CPD) create a pilot program to send push notifications to residents who call in for quality-of-life calls and leave their information. This pilot program would start off in the police districts with the highest calls for service and then be expanded to the rest of the city after a one-year evaluation. Currently, in many districts residents call for parking violations, noise complaints, and other quality-of-life complaints and many residents insist they never see the officer respond or know what the result of the call for service is. The issue of not seeing an officer respond further erodes people's faith and trust to call in a problem and it being handled by an officer.

The District Councils are available for further discussions on this new priority proposal and the proposals from 2023 and 2024. District Councilors look forward to working with the Commission in 2026 to ensure the Commission is well-informed by the needs and interests of all twenty-two districts in Chicago.

Sincerely,

District Council Planning Team for Quarterly and Annual Meetings

Adrienne M. Johnson

District Council 001

Southeast representative

Carmelita Earls

District Council 015

West representative

Thomas McMahon

District Council 005

Southeast representative

Alees Edwards

District Council 011

West representative

Jason Huff

District Council 008

Southwest representative

Veronica Arreola

District Council 024

North representative

Erin Vogel

District Council 009

Southwest representative

Deirdre O'Connor

District Council 020

North representative

District Councilor Vote Results on 2026 Priority Proposal Options

Proposal Name:	Build Community Trust & Transparency with Push Notifications		
Proposed by:	Jason Huff, 008		
Voting timeframe:	Tuesday, October 14, 2025 – Tuesday, October 21, 2025		
Vote requirement:	Greater than 67% of all District Councilors (44/65)		
Result:	Adopted (48/65 District Councilors, 73%)		
Voting Results	Voted Yes	Voted No	Abstain / Did Not Vote
District Councilors	48	8	9
DCs represented	22	7	0
DC majorities	10	1	0
DC consensuses	8	0	0
Vote Breakdown by Individual Councilors (** = DC majority, *** = DC consensus)			
48 Yes votes ***DC consensuses: 007, 008, 009, 011, 012, 018, 022, 024 **DC majorities: 001, 002, 004, 006, 010, 014, 015, 017, 020, 025	001**	Adrienne Johnson, Jamie Brown	
	002**	Marquinn McDonald, Alexander Perez	
	003	Kenya Franklin	
	004**	Lovie Bernard, Brenda Waters	
	005	Tom McMahon	
	006**	Aisha Humphries, Ciera Whitaker	
	007***	Teresa Chandler, Dion McGill, Joseph Williams	
	008***	Jason Huff, Al Cacciottolo, Mark Hamberlin	
	009***	Carlos Sanchez, Denise McBroom, Erin Vogel	
	010**	Elianne Bahena, Rosemarie Dominguez	
	011***	Bryan Ramson, Jr., Jocelyn Woodards, Alees Edwards	
	012***	Michelle D. Page, Leonardo Quintero, Chloe Vitale	
	014**	Chris Laurent, Ashley Vargas	
	015**	Arewa Nazm-EKUA, Deondre' Rutues	
	016	Daniel Martin	
	017**	Luis Bermudez, Anthony Tamez	
	018***	Brad Kessler, Bob Johnson, Karen Kane	
	019	Jenny Schaffer	
	020**	Darrell Dacres, Deirdre O'Connor	
	022***	Patrick Kennedy, Lee Bielecki, Carisa Parker	
	024***	Veronica Arreola, Keo Jean-Joseph, Marilyn Pagán-Banks	
	025**	Angelica Green, Saul Arellano	
8 No votes **DC Majorities: 016	001	Sarah Kammerer	
	002	Ephraim Lee	
	005	Ponchita Moore	
	014	David Orlikoff	
	016**	Colleen Dillon, Collen Murphy	
	017	Beth Rochford	
	019	Maurilio Garcia	
	003	Janice Jones	
9 Abstentions	004	Gloria Jenkins	
	005	Robert McKay	
	006	David Boykin	
	010	Kiisha Smith	
	015	Carmelita Earls	
	019	Sam Schoenburg	
	020	Anna Rubin	
	025	Jacob Arena	

BUILDING COMMUNITY TRUST & TRANSPARENCY THROUGH PUSH NOTIFICATIONS
PROPOSED BY JASON HUFF 008

ADOPTED

Description of why the topic should be a central focus for the Commission in 2026

Have the city of Chicago (OEMC working with CPD) create a pilot program to send push notifications to residents who call in for quality of life calls & leave their info. This Pilot program would start off in the police districts with the highest calls for service and then be expanded to the rest of the city after a one-year evaluation. Currently, in many districts residents call for parking violations, noise complaints, and other quality of life complaints and many residents insist they never see the officer respond or know what the result of the call for service is. The issue of not seeing an officer respond further erodes people's faith and trust to call in a problem and it being handled by an officer.

I believe with the technology that OEMC and CPD have they could implement this technology, and it would go a long way to improving transparency between residents and police. If residents get notifications about what happened regarding their call for service, this will build trust and show transparency that officers are responding to calls. In addition, if residents know and are seeing results visually or through notifications, they may feel more inclined to call 911 when something/Crime maybe taking place. This would also help officers respond to and hopefully stop or prevent a crime.

OPTIONAL: Description of recommended approach and expected outcomes

This proposal advances the DCs purpose as we are working on behalf of the residents to find more efficient and transparent ways to build trust between officers and residents. If residents know that their call was responded to and a solution was given, residents then maybe more inclined to call again for service and work with officers to report more suspicious activity. Currently, the City of Chicago uses push notifications thru Notify Chicago and the 311 App to inform residents of emergencies, traffic updates, and completion of service requests via these apps. This proposal also helps identify and recommend to the City Council ways to increase effectiveness, efficiency and proactiveness in the use of public safety resources

What Commission purposes does your proposal fulfill? This proposal will...

(The box around an item means the item was selected by the proposer.)

- A. increase public safety
- B. ensure that Department activities are directed toward maximizing public health and safety while minimizing any harm to City residents
- C. build trust and improve interactions between and among the Department and the people it serves
- D. ensure that Department policies and practices are rooted in community needs and public input
- E. ensure that Department resources are not used inefficiently to address public health or safety issues that other professionals are better equipped to address
- F. encourage preventative, proactive, community-based, and evidence-based approaches to public safety
- G. increase transparency and public input into Department operations, policies, and performance
- H. provide the residents of every Chicago community with meaningful opportunities to shape Department policies and practices that affect their lives
- I. help to bring the City into compliance with the Consent Decree as soon as is practicable
- J. increase efficiency in the use of public safety resources
- K. increase public accountability of the Department, COPA, and the Police Board

What relevant Commission powers and duties can be used to enact or further your proposal?

(The box around an item means the item was selected by the proposer.)

- A. Engaging in community outreach to obtain the perspectives of community members and Department employees on police-community relations, Department policies and practices, and the police accountability system;
- B. Maintaining connections with representatives of disenfranchised communities and with other community groups throughout the City
- C. Providing the Department, Police Board, COPA, and Public Safety Inspector General with community feedback relevant to their operations received as a result of the Commission's public outreach activities;
- D. Oversee the District Councils and delegate powers and duties to the District Councils at its discretion and consistent with applicable law
- E. Publish reports as required by this Chapter, and report to the public about matters related to policing that concern all Chicago communities;
- F. Have access to information, documents, data, and records in order to carry out the Commission's powers and duties
- G. Assess performance of and set goals for the Superintendent, Chief Administrator, and Police Board President;
- H. Recommend to the Public Safety Inspector General to conduct research or audits on specific topics or issues, including emergent issues that, in the Commission's judgment, are needed to support public confidence in the Department and related criminal justice practices. If the Commission issues such a recommendation in writing, the Public Safety Inspector General shall respond in writing within ten business days;
- I. Review and provide input to the Chief Administrator, Public Safety Inspector General, Superintendent, Police Board, and other City departments and offices, including the Mayor, City Council Committee on Police and Fire, or its successor committee, and Corporation Counsel on the police accountability system, police services, and Department policies and practices of significance to the public;
- J. Collaborate with the Department, COPA, and the Police Board in the development of new or amended Policy
- K. Draft, review, and approve by majority vote any proposed new or amended Policy
- L. By majority vote and subject to applicable law and reasonable scheduling accommodation, require the attendance of the Superintendent, the Public Safety Inspector General, the Chief Administrator, and the President of the Police Board, or their designees, at any regular or special meeting of the Commission in order to provide updates on matters as requested by the Commission, and to answer questions from the Commission and hear public comments;
- M. In the event of a vacancy, interview, assess the qualifications of, and recommend to the Mayor candidates having appropriate qualifications for the positions of Superintendent and Police Board member
- N. Introduce and by two-thirds majority vote adopt a resolution of no confidence in the Superintendent or a Police Board member
- O. Appoint the Chief Administrator with the advice and consent of the City Council, as provided in Section
- P. Remove the Chief Administrator
- Q. Before a City Council vote on the annual budget, review and, if warranted, recommend changes to the proposed Department budget appropriation
- R. Identify and recommend to the City Council ways to increase effectiveness and efficiency in the use of public safety resources
- S. Identify and recommend to the City Council ways to ensure that Department resources are used appropriately, taking into account issues that other professionals could adequately address
- T. Identify and recommend to the City Council preventative, proactive, community-based, and evidence-based solutions to violence
- U. Within 60 days after Commission members take office, appoint a Noncitizen Advisory Council, which shall include Chicago residents who are not United States citizens and Chicago residents who are undocumented, and may include people who work on behalf of Chicago residents who are not United States citizens; the Noncitizen Advisory Council shall advise the Commission to ensure that the perspectives and experiences of Chicago residents who are not United States citizens are reflected and incorporated in the Commission's work;
- V. Collaborate with the Department regarding the CAPS program and other existing or future Department-led community policing programs
- W. Create operational policies and procedures for the Commission

- X. Monitor the Department's compliance with its policies
- Y. Subject to approval of the Corporation Counsel as to form and legality, engage experts to provide

What is the source of your proposal? Please describe how this proposal came to be - is it a constituent concern? Does it tackle an ongoing issue in your district? Whom have you engaged with to arrive at this proposal?

This came to be from public comment and feedback from residents that they don't see officers and when they do call they don't feel their call for service is ever answered

This proposal came about from being a community representative before becoming a Councilor. Since the beginning of 2020, almost every meeting/event that I've been a part of that has pertained to public safety has had the same common issues. One of them is not seeing police or feeling anything is done, especially for quality-of-life issues calls. With CPD still working on recruiting new officers and dealing with a manpower shortage, a solution outside the box was needed. Since the city uses technology and data-based evidence for other departments I thought a push notification to alert residents of completion of their service call would help minimize complaints and build trust & transparency at the same time.

Add any additional background information, citations to relevant research, notable subject matter experts, etc.

No answer given

List of Supporters

1. Al Caciottolo 008
2. Mark Hamberlin 008
3. Jason Huff 008
4. Patrick Kennedy 022
5. Lee Bielecki 022
6. Tom McMahon 022
7. Jenny Schaffer 019
8. Chris Laurent 014
9. Deondre Rutues 015
10. Carisa Parker 022
11. Aisha Humphries 006
12. Leo Quintero 012
13. Karen Kane 018

District Councilor Vote Results on 2026 Priority Proposal Options

Proposal Name:	Chicago Victim Bill of Rights		
Proposed by:	Leonardo Quintero, 012 and Ashley Vargas, 014		
Voting timeframe:	Tuesday, October 14, 2025 – Tuesday, October 21, 2025		
Vote requirement:	Greater than 67% of all District Councilors (44/65)		
Result:	Not Adopted (39/65 District Councilors, 60%)		
Voting Results	Voted Yes	Voted No	Abstain / Did Not Vote
District Councilors	39	14	12
DCs represented	18	7	12
DC majorities	9	2	0
DC consensuses	6	2	0
Vote Breakdown by Individual Councilors (** = DC majority, *** = DC consensus)			
39 Yes votes	001	Adrienne Johnson	
	002***	Ephraim Lee, Marquinn McDonald, Alexander Perez	
	003	Kenya Franklin	
	004**	Lovie Bernard, Brenda Waters	
	006	Ciera Whitaker	
	007***	Teresa Chandler, Dion McGill, Joseph Williams	
	008**	Jason Huff, Al Cacciottolo	
	009**	Carlos Sanchez, Erin Vogel	
	010**	Elianne Bahena, Rosemarie Dominguez	
	011**	Bryan Ramson, Jr., Alees Edwards,	
	012***	Michelle D. Page, Leonardo Quintero, Chloe Vitale	
	014**	David Orlikoff, Ashley Vargas	
	015**	Arewa Najm-Ekua, Deondre' Rutues	
	017***	Luis Bermudez, Beth Rochford, Anthony Tamez	
	019**	Maurilio Garcia, Jenny Schaffer	
	020**	Darrell Dacres, Deirdre O'Connor	
	024***	Veronica Arreola, Keo Jean-Joseph, Marilyn Pagán-Banks	
	025***	Jacob Arena, Angelica Green, Saul Arellano	
	001	Sarah Kammerer	
	005**	Tom McMahon, Ponchita Moore	
	006	Aisha Humphries	
	009	Denise McBroom	
	014	Chris Laurent	
14 No votes	016***	Daniel Martin, Colleen Dillon, Collen Murphy	
	018**	Bob Johnson, Karen Kane	
	022***	Patrick Kennedy, Lee Bielecki, Carisa Parker	
	001	Jamie Brown	
	003	Janice Jones	
12 Abstentions	004	Gloria Jenkins	
	005	Robert McKay	
	006	David Boykin	
	008	Hamberlin	
	010	Kiisha Smith	
	011	Jocelyn Woodards	
	015	Carmelita Earls	
	018	Brad Kessler	
	019	Sam Schoenburg	
	020	Anna Rubin	

CHICAGO VICTIM BILL OF RIGHTS
PROPOSED BY LEONARDO QUINTERO 012 and ASHLEY VARGAS 014

NOT ADOPTED

BACKGROUND

Survivors of violence in Chicago regularly report feeling abandoned by the criminal justice system — left with unanswered questions, little to no communication from detectives, and no clear pathways to healing or justice. Homicide clearance rates remain disproportionately low in neighborhoods most affected by violence, and families are often informed of their loved one's death in cold, impersonal ways. In many cases, CPD fails to connect victims to even the most basic resources, such as counseling, relocation assistance, or funeral support. The absence of a formal city-level Bill of Rights for victims — one that includes enforceable standards — has allowed this systemic disregard to persist. Councilors have met with hundreds of residents over the last 2 years around lack of procedural knowledge and lack of "customer service" by CPD after harm.

PURPOSE

This proposal seeks to establish a Chicago Victims' Bill of Rights to affirm and protect the dignity, safety, and healing of victims and their surviving families. As representatives elected to advance community safety, Police District Councils have an obligation to respond to ongoing harm experienced by victims who are often retraumatized by dismissive, opaque, or negligent treatment from the Chicago Police Department (CPD). While the Illinois Crime Victims' Rights Act provides foundational protections, this proposal outlines additional local standards of care, transparency, and accountability that CPD and the broader City of Chicago should adopt to better serve survivors and honor their humanity.

PROPOSED OBJECTIVES

The Chicago Victims' Bill of Rights would establish clear protections and entitlements for victims and their families. It would require CPD to adopt and enforce internal policies aligned with the following core rights:

- Right to Timely and Compassionate Notification – Families must be notified of injuries or deaths as soon as reasonably possible in a humane, culturally competent, and trauma-informed manner.
- Right to Transparency and Case Updates – Victims and survivors must be informed about their case status at regular intervals, including when a case is transferred, suspended, or closed. A clear point of contact must be established for every case.
- Right to Access Support Services – CPD must provide survivors with timely referrals to city-funded and community-based support services, including mental health care, housing or relocation resources, funeral assistance, and victim compensation programs.
- Right to Be Heard – Survivors must have meaningful opportunities to share feedback on their treatment, participate in trauma-informed interviews when appropriate, and be included in relevant policy discussions through the Commission for Community Safety and Accountability (CCPSA) and Police District Councils.
- Right to Institutional Accountability – Victims and families must be able to file complaints regarding officer misconduct, delay, or negligence in their treatment, with guaranteed review by

the COPA or the Office of Inspector General. Patterns of mistreatment must trigger public reporting and potential disciplinary action.

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION, CITATIONS TO RELEVANT RESEARCH, NOTABLE SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS, ETC.

We have connected with Senator Celina Villanueva who is currently proposing an amendment to the Illinois Victims Bill of Rights. We plan to work closer with her office if this proposal is accepted to ensure alignment between multiple layers of government.

District Councilor Vote Results on 2026 Priority Proposal Options

Proposal Name:	City Wide Youth Public Safety Advisory Council and District Level Youth Councils Vote		
Proposed by:	Leonardo Quintero, 012		
Voting timeframe:	Tuesday, October 14, 2025 – Tuesday, October 21, 2025		
Vote requirement:	Greater than 67% of all District Councilors (44/65)		
Result:	Not Adopted (36/65 District Councilors, 55%)		
Voting Results	Voted Yes	Voted No	Abstain / Did Not Vote
District Councilors	36	17	12
DCs represented	17	10	10
DC majorities	6	1	1
DC consensuses	6	3	1
Vote Breakdown by Individual Councilors (** = DC majority, *** = DC consensus)			
36 Yes votes ***DC consensuses: 002, 007, 012, 017, 024, 025 **DC majorities: 009, 010, 011, 014, 015, 020	001	Adrienne Johnson	
	002***	Ephraim Lee, Marquinn McDonald, Alexander Perez	
	004	Brenda Waters	
	005	Ponchita Moore	
	006	Ciera Whitaker	
	007***	Teresa Chandler, Dion McGill, Joseph Williams	
	008	Al Cacciottolo	
	009**	Carlos Sanchez, Erin Vogel	
	010**	Elianne Bahena, Rosemarie Dominguez	
	011**	Jocelyn Woodards, Alees Edwards,	
	012***	Michelle D. Page, Leonardo Quintero, Chloe Vitale	
	014**	Chris Laurent, Ashley Vargas	
	015**	Arewa Nazm-EKUA, Deondre' Rutues	
	017***	Luis Bermudez, Beth Rochford, Anthony Tamez	
	019	Maurilio Garcia	
	020**	Darrell Dacres, Deirdre O'Connor	
	024***	Veronica Arreola, Keo Jean-Joseph, Marilyn Pagán-Banks	
	025***	Angelica Green, Saul Arellano	
17 No votes ***DC consensuses: 016, 018, 022 **DC Majorities: 008	001	Sarah Kammerer	
	004	Lovie Bernard	
	005	Tom McMahon	
	006	Aisha Humphries	
	008**	Jason Huff, Mark Hamberlin	
	009	Denise McBroom	
	011	Bryan Ramson, Jr.	
	016***	Daniel Martin, Colleen Dillon, Collen Murphy	
	018***	Brad Kessler, Bob Johnson, Karen Kane	
	022***	Patrick Kennedy, Lee Bielecki, Carisa Parker	
	001	Jamie Brown	
	003***	Kenya Franklin, Janice Jones [3 rd seat vacant]	
12 Abstentions ***DC consensuses: 003 **DC Majorities: 019	004	Gloria Jenkins	
	005	Robert McKay	
	006	David Boykin	
	010	Kiisha Smith	
	014	David Orlikoff	
	015	Carmelita Earls	
	019**	Jenny Schaffer, Sam Schoenburg	
	020	Anna Rubin	

CITY-WIDE YOUTH PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COUNCIL YOUTH COUNCILS
PROPOSED BY LEO QUINTERO 012

NOT ADOPTED

BACKGROUND

Youth are among the most affected by public safety measures, yet they are often excluded from policy conversations. By creating formal opportunities for youth participation, the Commission can promote more equitable, responsive, and community-centered public safety strategies. Involving youth in decision-making fosters trust, improves communication between young people and law enforcement, and helps develop future civic leaders. This proposal also supports the Commission's mandates under MCC 2-80-050(d), (j), (k), and (w), which emphasize inclusive policymaking, youth engagement, and community participation.

PURPOSE

This proposal focuses on establishing a city-wide Youth Public Safety Advisory Council and district-level Youth Councils on Rights and Public Safety that provide young people with meaningful roles in shaping public safety policies and practices that directly affect their lives. The Community Commission on Public Safety and Accountability (CCPSA) would supervise and facilitate these efforts, ensuring youth engagement is integrated into public safety work and providing institutional visibility for youth input.

IMPLEMENTATION

The proposal recommends establishing youth councils in each CPD district, with one or two youth representatives from each district-level council serving on a city-wide Youth Public Safety Advisory Council. District-level councils would be coordinated and facilitated by Community Outreach District Councilor and/or Community Outreach Coordinators (COCs), who would ensure consistent structure, training, and support for participating youth.

The city-wide Youth Public Safety Advisory Council would work closely with the two Youth Commissioners from CCPSA, who would serve as liaisons, provide mentorship, and integrate council input into Commission priorities and meetings. These youth representatives would meet monthly with the Youth Commissioners and periodically present updates or concerns during CCPSA public meetings.

Youth participation would be volunteer-based, unless a stipend can be obtained via CCPSA funds. Each district's Community Representative from the District Council would collaborate with youth participants to co-develop an annual curriculum, which would be presented to the full District Council at a regular public meeting for feedback and support. The curriculum would focus on three key areas: Know Your Rights, Constitutional Policing, and Community Outreach (including canvassing and organizing youth-led town halls and events). The expected outcomes include better youth understanding of civic processes, stronger community-police relationships, and policy that reflects the lived experience of young people.

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION, CITATIONS TO RELEVANT RESEARCH, NOTABLE SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS, ETC.

This proposal emerged from ongoing discussions within local communities about the need for more youth participation in public safety policy. It is based on input gathered from youth-focused listening sessions hosted by District Councilor, community meetings, and roundtables with educators and neighborhood organizers. Concerns were raised by youth and adults alike about the limitations of current youth engagement structures and the absence of direct youth influence in public safety decision-making.

Unlike existing youth programs affiliated with CPD or the Mayor's Office, this proposal positions the youth councils as independent groups supported and supervised by Police District Councils and/or CCPSA COCs. To remain compliant with the Open Meetings Act (OMA), the councils would provide non-binding recommendations and engage in advisory presentations, without holding decision-making or enforcement authority. This structure ensures long-term, meaningful youth inclusion in public safety discourse and policy development.

District Councilor Vote Results on 2026 Priority Proposal Options

Proposal Name:	Alternate Response to First Amendment Demonstrations		
Proposed by:	Keo Jean-Joseph, 024		
Voting timeframe:	Tuesday, October 14, 2025 – Tuesday, October 21, 2025		
Vote requirement:	Greater than 67% of all District Councilors (44/65)		
Result:	Not Adopted (31/65 District Councilors, 47%)		
Voting Results	Voted Yes	Voted No	Abstain / Did Not Vote
District Councilors	32	20	13
DCs represented	17	11	10
DC majorities	7	1	3
DC consensuses	4	4	0
Vote Breakdown by Individual Councilors (** = DC majority, *** = DC consensus)			
32 Yes votes ***DC consensuses: 012, 017, 024, 025 **DC majorities: 002, 004, 007, 010, 011, 014, 020	001	Adrienne Johnson	
	002**	Marquinn McDonald, Alexander Perez	
	004**	Lovie Bernard, Brenda Waters	
	005	Ponchita Moore	
	006	Ciera Whitaker	
	007**	Dion McGill, Joseph Williams	
	009	Erin Vogel	
	010**	Elianne Bahena, Rosemarie Dominguez	
	011**	Jocelyn Woodards, Alees Edwards,	
	012***	Michelle D. Page, Leonardo Quintero, Chloe Vitale	
	014**	Ashley Vargas, David Ortikoff	
	015	Deondre' Rutues	
	017***	Luis Bermudez, Beth Rochford, Anthony Tamez	
	019	Maurilio Garcia	
	020**	Darrell Dacres, Deirdre O'Connor	
	024***	Veronica Arreola, Keo Jean-Joseph, Marilyn Pagán-Banks	
	025***	Angelica Green, Saul Arellano, Jacob Arena	
20 No votes ***DC consensuses: 008, 016, 018, 022 **DC Majorities: 001,	001**	Sarah Kammerer, Jamie Brown	
	002	Ephraim Lee	
	003	Kenya Franklin	
	005	Tom McMahon	
	006	Aisha Humphries	
	008***	Jason Huff, Al Cacciottolo, Mark Hamberlin	
	011	Bryan Ramson, Jr.	
	014	Chris Laurent	
	016***	Daniel Martin, Colleen Dillon, Collen Murphy	
	018***	Brad Kessler, Bob Johnson, Karen Kane	
	022***	Patrick Kennedy, Lee Bielecki, Carisa Parker	
13 Abstentions **DC Majorities: 009, 015, 019	003	Janice Jones	
	004	Gloria Jenkins	
	005	Robert McKay	
	006	David Boykin	
	007	Teresa Chandler	
	009**	Carlos Sanchez, Denise McBroom	
	010	Kiisha Smith	
	015**	Carmelita Earls, Arewa Nazm-EKUA	
	019**	Jenny Schaffer, Sam Schoenburg	
	020	Anna Rubin	

ALTERNATE RESPONSE TO FIRST AMENDMENT PROTESTS
PROPOSED BY KEO JEAN-JOSEPH 024

NOT ADOPTED

BACKGROUND

Since 2020, Chicago has experienced a significant rise in First Amendment demonstrations, reflecting both local and national calls for justice and government accountability. In response to these protests, the city has seen a disproportionate reliance on the Chicago Police Department (CPD) as the primary responder often resulting in mass arrests, use of force, and an erosion of public trust.

During the summer of 2020 alone, 1,519 individuals were arrested at demonstrations. The Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) launched 170 investigations into alleged misconduct, confirming that multiple officers used excessive force and mishandled mass arrests. These incidents led to over \$8.7 million in settlements paid by the city. These settlements do very little to resolve the physical and emotional damage of police violence. While CPD has since implemented policy changes, such as banning kettling and limiting arrests for minor protest-related offenses, recent events suggest these measures are insufficient.

For example, November 2023 at the Israeli Consulate Pro-Palestine protest, over 50 individuals were arrested despite the updated policies. On June 4th, thousands protested the federal rollout of ICE operations, only to witness CPD escorting ICE agents, blocking traffic, and securing the area in ways that appeared to suppress lawful protest and intimidate participants. These actions contradicted the spirit of Chicago's Welcoming City Ordinance and undermined community trust.

Many of today's demonstrations are decentralized and rapidly organized through social media and encrypted messaging platforms. This evolving protest landscape presents logistical challenges yet does not justify continued heavy-handed policing. Chicago's historical record, from the 1968 Democratic National Convention to the present day, shows that the deployment of law enforcement as the default response to protests too often escalates tensions and suppresses dissent.

We urge the Commission to prioritize the creation of a non-police, civilian-led response model for First Amendment demonstrations. This alternative response could include trained civilian teams such as legal observers, de-escalation specialists, and public safety liaisons; who can work with protest organizers, provide support to demonstrators, and protect public safety without the presence of armed officers.

This recommendation aligns with the consent decree's mandates, strengthens constitutional protections, and positions Chicago as a national leader in community-centered public safety and protest response.

PURPOSE

In 2026, the Commission has an opportunity to lead the creation of a more effective, proportional, and community-centered response to First Amendment demonstrations in Chicago. The Commission can help shift the city away from the current policy of deploying outdated, reactionary enforcement strategies by

recommending a civilian-led protest response model that includes Community Violence Intervention (CVI) Outreach Workers, legal observers, public safety liaisons, and trained de-escalation teams.

Current practices have alienated communities, undermined Chicago's Welcoming City Ordinance, and raised serious concerns about whether CPD's protest responses align with the spirit and letter of the consent decree, which mandates constitutional policing and greater police accountability.

The Commission should make this a central focus not only to fulfill the city's obligations, but to protect the constitutional rights and lives of its residents and officers the integration of CVI Outreach Workers would not only address longstanding public concerns over police misconduct but also relieve pressure on an overstretched CPD. This shift would allow police resources to be reallocated to areas with high need, while ensuring that protest management is guided by principles of de-escalation, civil liberties, and community trust.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

To ensure this model will be scalable, replicable, and longstanding the process should be grounded in community input and legal expertise.

Public Hearings and Stakeholder Engagement: Host public hearings to gather input from community organizations, legal experts, civil rights advocates, and individuals with lived experience in organizing or participating in protests. Specifically engage grassroots groups such as *Increase the Peace*, *One Northside*, *BYP100*. Community outreach to groups that are affected the most by enforcement policing such as BIPOC, Immigrants, LGBTQIA, and young people to ensure that their insight is included in the development of the model. Gather testimony on past protest response experiences, the limitations of CPD involvement, and their knowledge of proposals for a civilian-led alternative.

Development of a Civilian-Led Alternative Response Model: Based on stakeholder input, the Commission will recommend operational protocols for Community Violence Intervention (CVI) workers, legal observers, de-escalation specialists, and other trained civilian responders to manage protests with a focus on de-escalation and rights protection. The model will incorporate a self-dispatch mechanism, empowering civilian teams to deploy proactively to demonstrations without sole reliance on police or emergency dispatch systems.

Establishment of Oversight and Accountability Measures: A transparent oversight body will be created to monitor the effectiveness, safety, and constitutional compliance of the alternative response model, including data reporting and community feedback mechanisms.

To implement this alternative response model, amendments to existing ordinances governing protest management and public safety response will be necessary. The ordinance must be revised to formally recognize alternative responders as authorized public safety actors during demonstrations, granting them the legal authority to self-dispatch and operate independently. To do such the ordinance will need to clarify the roles and integrate civilian teams within the emergency response networks. Allocation of funding through the Chicago Department of Public Health. Along with the establishment of oversight bodies for the alternative response program to guarantee accountability and sustainability.

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION, CITATIONS TO RELEVANT RESEARCH, NOTABLE SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS

This proposal arose directly from community concerns following the Chicago Police Department's response to the protest on June 4th, which was organized in opposition to increased immigration enforcement and CPD's relationship with ICE. Many who attended or observed the protest expressed outrage and fear over what they saw as collaboration with ICE agents and the intimidation of demonstrators. These events have fueled a growing mistrust between the community and the police department, particularly in immigrant and activist communities.

This proposal addresses an ongoing and escalating issue. Our district is home to many immigrant families, organizers, and politically active residents who frequently participate in protests and public demonstrations. The concerns they have raised are not isolated; they reflect broader patterns of policing that have been observed during other protest events both past and recent.

Residents of the 40th and 50th Ward who participated in or witnessed the June 4th protest. Immigrant families impacted by ICE enforcement and fearful of CPD cooperation. Local organizers and individual activists from: Black Youth Project 100 (BYP100), Grassroots Alliance for Police Accountability (GAPA), One Northside.