

DISTRICT COUNCIL 001
COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Meeting Type: Regular

Meeting Date: March 3, 2026

Meeting Location: Chicago Women’s Park and Garden, 1801 S Indian, Chicago, IL 60607

Meeting Start Time: 6:01 PM

Attendees: 11 Community members, Kevin Ryan, CTA Vice President of Security, 1st District Commander Mannion, 1st District Captain Shoshi

District Council Member Attendance

Name	Role	Present	Remote	Absent
Sarah Kammerer	Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adrienne Johnson	Nominator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jamie Brown	Community Engagement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Quorum Met*: Yes

* In compliance with the Open Meetings Act (OMA), meetings require at least two members physically present to proceed.

Approval of Minutes

- February 2026 minutes — Motion to approve; no corrections; approved

Public Comment

- **Ellen M.:** Reported a recent pickpocketing incident involving friends from out of town, while on the Blue Line. The wallet was stolen after one rider stopped to assist another whose foot appeared to be “stuck.” Recommended adding more visible signage and periodic reminders encouraging riders to stay alert for pickpockets.
- **Dan S.:** Raised concerns about ongoing bucket drumming in front of the Art Institute, resulting in continuous noise disturbance within nearby residences—even with windows closed. Believes the activity violates city ordinances related to street performance permits and excessive noise levels. Has followed the Alderman’s guidance to call 911; while officers respond and drummers temporarily leave, they soon return. Requests consideration of enhanced enforcement strategies, including designated performance zones near Millennium Park and the Art Institute, regular officer patrols or ticketing to deter recurrence, and potential policy or City Council actions to address location-specific noise issues

- **Jessica K.:** Reported repeated mailbox break-ins (twice within the past 6–9 months), allegedly involving use of a master key. Despite submitting video evidence, follow-up from the Postal Inspector has been limited. Expressed concern about rising package thefts and unauthorized property access, with individuals reportedly crawling under or over gates. Also raised concerns about ongoing suspicious and potentially illicit activity in the nearby, privately owned Mark Twain Park—such as cars entering and leaving late at night—despite existing “No Trespassing” signage installed years ago. The HOA is now considering added expenses for private security. Requested support for coordination among CPD, the Postal Inspector, the property owner, and the District Council to address recurring thefts and park-related disturbances.
 - **Casey C.:** Shared concerns related to CTA conditions. Observed officers primarily stationed at turnstiles and suggested that random patrols on trains and varying car patterns could help deter pickpocketing and nuisance behaviors. Noted ongoing issues such as loud music from boomboxes, smoking and vaping on trains, and fare evasion. Requested consideration of shifting resources toward more randomized, mobile enforcement across trains and platforms.
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District Council Updates

Sarah Kammerer, Chair

- DC Overview:
 - District Boundaries: Defined as the Chicago River South to 31st Street and from Lake Michigan to the highway.
 - Role is to facilitate dialogue between the community and police to build trust, accountability, and transparency. Stressed the importance of community feedback.
 - Engagement Methods: Encouraged participation through monthly public meetings, community events, feedback forms, and direct communication (emails, phone calls, informal meetings)
 - Asked attendees to facilitate introductions
- Activities: Attends condo board meetings; Presidents Association; Chicago Loop Alliance security calls; arts/cultural stakeholder calls; collects resident/workers’ input.
- Common Trends and Concerns
 - CTA safety and rider experience.
 - Homelessness and related service needs.
 - Quality-of-life noise (e.g., bucket drumming).
 - Pedestrian safety, including concerns about bikes/scooters

Adrienne Johnson, Nominating Committee

- Commission vacancies: Three seats; applications closed Feb 6, 2026. Reviewing applications; selected interviewees and completed interviews on February 28; voting this week on candidates to submit to the Mayor and City Council for appointment.

- Next Nominating Committee Public meeting: Saturday, 10:00 AM, at Kennedy-King College for the vacancies
- Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability (CCPSA) updates:
 - At the January 29 Commission Meeting, members voted to nominate the current Interim Chief Administrator, LaKenya White, for permanent appointment as Chief Administrator of the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA). She will go in front of City Council’s Police and Fire Committee on March 13, then with their approval, will be appointed at March 18 City Council meeting
 - Next CCPSA Commission meeting: March 26, 2026.
- Community Engagement
 - Meetings with neighbors, community association manager(s) and local South Loop business managers/owners
 - Contact council members by their individual email address, phone or our shared email of dc1@cityofchicago.org
 - FB page for District Council 001 (Facebook.com/DistrictCouncil001) has 43 followers (increased 2 net followers or 5% from January’s DC 001 Monthly Meeting)
 - Views and engagement increased 550% from previous meeting

Jamie Brown, Community Engagement

- Affirmed that 1st and 18th Districts are among the busiest once spring begins (festivals, races, special events).
- Agrees on the common issues heard:
 - “Noise pollution” (bucket drumming, vehicle noise).
 - Michigan Ave seasonal crime/safety concerns.
 - Vehicle caravans/ “drag racing” corridor issues (Jefferson/Canal).
- Note: CPD experiences limited days off during peak event season due to continuous operations.

Presentation

Guest Speaker: Kevin Ryan, CTA Safety & Operations

- Pickpocketing patterns: Often staged scenarios (e.g., the “stuck foot” distraction); focus on travelers with suitcases/bags; offenders are experienced, sometimes traveling crews that CPD is aware of, many arrests historically reduced activity, though incidents still occur.
- Police presence & deployments:
 - Generally, in this 1st quarter, crime is down in 001, including on CTA
 - The top 3 reasons for arrests on CTA are 1) fare evasion, 2) smoking and 3) arrests for people with warrants
 - “Special Employment” officers: ~160 per day on CTA (active-duty CPD), especially on Red and Blue Lines, primarily days/afternoons; operate in teams with supervisors; also, suburban deployments (Oak Park, Forest Park, Evanston).

- o Safe Trip missions: Officers line platforms; on train arrival, they board, step through cars, and rotate stations hourly.
 - o Anti-smoking missions: Three days/week across two shifts with K9 teams and Public Transportation Unit.
 - o CPD Mass Transit Unit: Works exclusively on CTA rail/bus; most active teams citywide in/near 1st District.
 - o Sheriff partnership: Cook County Sheriff opened a Roosevelt satellite station; provided Ventra access and CTA camera feeds.
 - Security infrastructure:
 - o Investigations group: Retired CPD detectives; case-building with CTA Public Transportation Unit.
 - o Private security: Monterey Security (unarmed presence/reporting) and Action K9 (canine teams) used to augment.
 - o Cameras: 30,000+ across the system; access integrated with CPD's SDSC (Strategic Decision Support Center) upgraded via CTA support (18th Street Annex; staffed 24/7).
 - Technology:
 - o ZeroEyes (gun detection): AI-based detection of exposed firearms, with human review at a staffed operations center (former military/law enforcement analyzing alerts) before rapid notification to law enforcement. Expansion is underway; credited with ~20+ offender apprehensions and several robbery interventions.
 - CTA rules & rider tools:
 - o Concealed carry: Legal in IL with permit, but not on CTA.
 - o Emergency: Use the Passenger Intercom Unit (PIU) to contact the rail operator.
 - o Non-emergency: CTA chatbot can route quality-of-life concerns (not for emergencies).
 - Homelessness & services:
 - o Being homeless is not illegal; CTA partners with service providers (e.g., Haymarket presence at O'Hare) to engage and offer services.
 - o "Administrative bans" can be issued by CTA for certain behaviors, though enforcement tools are limited.
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District Commander Updates

- Trends:
 - o Crime reported as down in the 1st District and system-wide vs. prior year (approx. 5–8% reduction, per speaker).
- 1st District Strategic Plan:
 - o At the 001 DC meeting, Commander Mannion will present a more in-depth review of the strategic plan.
 - o Future meeting planned to present the strategic plan (Commander Mannion mentioned bringing a fuller presentation).

- o Vending enforcement near Millennium Park: missions/sweeps planned with BACP (Business Affairs & Consumer Protection), Law Department/City attorneys, CPD specialized teams; ticketing complicated by lack of IDs, but multi-agency operations aim for impact.
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 - Enforcement limitations:
 - o Vehicle noise: Historical ability to cite/seize vehicles for loud exhaust has changed; current statutes/tools more limited, making consistent enforcement difficult.
 - o Vehicle pursuits: Not permitted for noise/caravan dispersal; strategy focuses on targeted missions and follow-up (impounds, tickets) where feasible.
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Trends and Concerns

- CTA rider safety & experience: Pickpocketing tactics; smoking/vaping; loud music; fare evasion; requests for randomized train patrols. (Trend)
- Noise & street performance:
 - o Bucket drumming near the Art Institute; calls for clearer enforcement, permitted zones, and routine checks/ticketing. (Trend)
 - o “Drag racing” (often caravans rather than head-to-head racing), loud exhausts, and enforcement limits (e.g., no pursuits; changes to noise-ticketing policies complicate enforcement). (Trend)
- Property crime: Mailbox break-ins with suspected master key; package thefts; unauthorized access to gated complexes. (Concern – location specific)
- Parks & public spaces: Suspected drug activity and late-night vehicle congregations at privately owned Mark Twain Park. (Concern – location specific)
- Pedestrian safety: Increased concerns re: bikes/scooters colliding with pedestrians. (Trend)

Next Meeting Details

- **Date:** April 14, 2025, 6:00 PM
 - **Location:** Maggie Daley Park Fieldhouse, 337 E Randolph Street
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Meeting Adjourned: 6:47 PM