



DISTRICT COUNCILS

COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting

Date: May 19, 2026

Time: 6:07 PM

Location: Washington Park Refectory, 5531 S. Russell Drive, Chicago, IL

I. Call to Order

Chairperson **Ephraim Lee** called the meeting to order at **6:07 PM**.

II. Roll Call and Attendance

Present

- Chair Ephraim Lee
- Marquinn McDonald

Absent

- Alexander Perez (excused absence)

Additional Attendance

- Five (5) meeting attendees present
- No Chicago Police Department (CPD) representatives present

Quorum: A quorum was established with two Councilors present.

III. Approval of Agenda

The agenda had been previously approved. No modifications were permitted.

IV. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Councilors noted that no regular meeting was held during April 2026.

Motion

To approve the March 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Vote

Approved unanimously.

V. Public Comment

A. Jessica Jackson – Advisor, Chicago Flips Red

Ms. Jackson addressed concerns regarding public perceptions of Chicago Flips Red following recent media coverage. She stated that the organization attends public meetings to exercise First Amendment rights and advocates against what members believe to be systemic theft of Black-owned property through probate proceedings and property tax sales.

Ms. Jackson shared details regarding her family's ongoing probate case and alleged misconduct involving public officials and administrators. She requested that future reporting accurately reflect the organization's advocacy efforts.

Chair Ephraim Lee acknowledged the concerns raised and apologized for any prior misunderstandings or mischaracterizations. The apology was accepted.

B. Zoe Lee – Chicago Flips Red Member

Ms. Lee discussed concerns related to senior displacement, eminent domain practices, and redevelopment projects affecting long-term residents. She criticized elected officials and media outlets for focusing on negative portrayals while overlooking concerns regarding property ownership and displacement.

Ms. Lee encouraged greater public oversight and increased attention to property rights issues.

C. Additional Discussion

Ms. Jackson provided further details regarding her family's probate matter, including concerns about judicial and administrative processes. Chair Ephraim Lee acknowledged the seriousness of the concerns and committed to conducting additional research before discussing such matters publicly in the future.

Several attendees expressed interest in continuing discussions following the meeting.

VI. Public Discussion on District Trends and Community Concerns

A. Community Violence and Public Safety

Residents expressed concerns regarding ongoing violence throughout the district, particularly in areas surrounding King Drive, Prairie Shores, Bronzeville, bus stops, and CTA locations.

Discussion included:

- Increased shootings and violent incidents
- Perceived lack of visibility from elected officials
- Frustration regarding public safety priorities

Chair Ephraim Lee summarized a recent public safety meeting attended by representatives from elected offices, police leadership, and community stakeholders. Residents were encouraged to continue participating in public safety discussions and meetings.

B. City Resource Allocation and Accountability

Residents discussed:

- Rising property taxes
- Distribution of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds
- Perceived inequities in investment between downtown and South and West Side neighborhoods
- Concerns regarding public spending and neighborhood disinvestment

C. Youth Crime and Teen Gatherings

Discussion focused on:

- Recent youth gathering trends and “teen takeovers”
- Root causes of youth violence
- Mentorship opportunities
- Community organizing efforts
- Youth engagement and prevention strategies

Participants highlighted successful examples of neighborhood organizing and block club involvement as effective violence reduction strategies.

VII. Councilor Reports

A. Marquinn McDonald Report

The Council announced the nomination of the following individuals to serve in appointed positions pending mayoral approval:

- Anjanette Young
- Angelique Guzman

Councilors noted that both appointees are expected to participate in future meetings upon official appointment.

B. Community Events and Initiatives

Councilor Alexander Perez's upcoming youth event, **Kids Create and Celebrate Positivity**, was announced.

The event, in partnership with KaLab, will provide:

- Creative arts activities
- Youth engagement opportunities
- Snacks and refreshments
- Positive community-building experiences

Councilors also discussed a recent youth gathering at 31st Street Beach where participants were dispersed before curfew with minimal incidents reported.

VIII. Update from the Commission

Council members discussed ongoing oversight efforts involving:

- Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability (CCPSA)
- Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA)
- Chicago Police Board

Discussion included concerns regarding compliance with federal consent decree requirements and the importance of continued community oversight and accountability.

IX. Chairperson's Report

Ephraim Lee

Councilors reported ongoing communication with police leadership.

Future plans include:

- Inviting detective unit representatives twice annually
- Providing updates on investigations and crime-solving efforts
- Increasing transparency and community engagement

Captain Edwards was unable to attend due to a minor injury. An apology was conveyed on his behalf.

X. Hearings and Discussions

Public Safety and Community Accountability

The Council facilitated discussion regarding:

- Violence prevention efforts
- Community-police relations
- Accountability of public officials
- Organizing versus protesting as methods of community engagement
- Historical examples of successful violence reduction through neighborhood organizing

Participants emphasized the importance of resident participation in CAPS meetings, District Council meetings, and citywide engagement opportunities.

XI. Presentations and Announcements

A. Mayor's Budget Engagement Roundtables

Residents were encouraged to attend upcoming city budget engagement sessions:

- June 3, 2026 – Malcolm X College, 1900 W. Jackson Blvd.

- June 6, 2026 – Harry S Truman College, 1145 W. Wilson Ave.
- June 16, 2026 – Kennedy-King College, 6301 S. Halsted St.

B. Deputy Mayor of Community Safety

Councilors shared information regarding the appointment of Emmanuel Andre as Deputy Mayor of Community Safety and discussed priorities related to:

- Restorative justice
- Youth engagement
- Violence prevention
- Victim services

C. CARE Program Expansion

The Council announced that the CARE program has expanded citywide to respond to nonviolent mental health emergencies through 911 and 311 dispatch systems.

D. Gunshot Detection Technology

Councilor Marquinn McDonald discussed the City's search for a replacement gunshot detection system following the termination of ShotSpotter services and noted upcoming public hearings on the issue.

E. Alternative Response Conference

Residents were informed about the Alternative Response Conference scheduled for June 4–5, 2026, at Willis Tower.

XII. Action Items

A. Immediate Actions

- Chair Ephraim Lee will contact Alderman Lamont Robinson regarding community concerns related to violence and public safety.
- The Council will post information regarding upcoming public engagement opportunities on the District Council Facebook page.

B. Ongoing Actions

- Continue efforts to engage police representatives at monthly meetings.

- Schedule biannual detective unit presentations.
 - Improve communication and due diligence regarding community concerns and media engagement.
 - Advocate for equitable resource allocation and violence prevention investments.
 - Encourage participation in city budget engagement opportunities.
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XIII. Final Announcements

Next Regular Meeting

Date: June 18, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Washington Park Refectory, 5531 S. Russell Drive, Chicago, IL

XIV. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at **7:00 PM**.