



# DISTRICT COUNCILS

COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

## 7th District Council Monthly Meeting Minutes

**Date:** March 18, 2026

**Time:** 6:00 PM

**Location:** Ogden Park Field House (Near), 6500 S. Racine Ave, Chicago, IL

### Attendance & Quorum

The Open Meetings Act (OMA) requires at least two (2) of three (3) members present in person to establish a quorum.

District Council Member	Present	Remote	Absent
<b>Chair: Teresa Chandler</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Nominator: Dion McGill</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Community Engagement: Joseph Williams</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Quorum (2 of 3 members present in person):**  Yes  No

**Total Attendance:** 14

- Includes **3 CPD officers** (no command staff present)

### 1. Approval of Previous Minutes

- Motion made and seconded to approve the **February 18, 2026, meeting minutes.**
- Minutes approved unanimously.

#### Clarification:

- Meeting minutes are publicly posted **after formal approval.**

#### Discussion Points:

- Improving transparency
  - Increasing timeliness of public access to meeting minutes
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## 2. Introductions & Meeting Protocols

### 2.1 Attendee Introductions

Participants included:

- District Council members
  - City representatives and liaisons
  - Community organizers
  - Social workers and outreach coordinators
  - Housing advocates
  - Youth engagement and violence prevention professionals
  - Residents and community stakeholders
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### 2.2 Public Comment Guidelines

- Speakers were asked to state their **name and organization** before commenting.
  - Emphasis placed on maintaining a **welcoming, respectful, and inclusive environment**.
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## 3. Key Discussion Topics

### 3.1 Violence Prevention & Community Outreach

Guest Speaker:

- Marilyn Pitchforth (Breakthrough, former Ceasefire)

Key Points:

- Violence often begins as **interpersonal conflict** and may escalate.
- Effective outreach includes:
  - Conflict mediation
  - Relationship-building

- Consistent follow-up
- Resource connection (mental health, housing, employment)

### **Trends & Challenges:**

- Increased involvement of women in street conflicts
- Youth homelessness and limited re-entry resources
- Lack of accessible services contributing to youth unrest
- Need to strengthen community trust and police relationships

### **Programs Highlighted:**

- Peacekeepers providing:
  - Community presence
  - Transitional employment
  - Stipends

### **Recommendation:**

- Outreach efforts should include **tangible resources and referrals**
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## **3.2 Youth & Family Resource Navigation**

### **Family Focus & JAC Partnership**

- Serves youth ages **14–24**

### **Services Include:**

- Case management
- Therapy and counseling
- Crisis intervention
- Basic needs support
- Employment assistance

### **Access:**

- QR code referral system
- **24-hour follow-up**

### **Update:**

- Potential expansion of age eligibility

**Key Concern:**

- Need for **family-centered, comprehensive support systems**
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### **3.3 Community Trends & Public Safety Concerns**

#### **Community Engagement**

- Emphasis: **“Everyone must be involved.”**
  - Recognition of active community leaders (“spark lighters”)
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#### **Senior Safety & Outreach**

- Increase in **home repair and construction scams targeting seniors**

#### **Upcoming Event:**

- **April 15, 2026**
- West Englewood Library

#### **Challenges:**

- Isolation and loneliness
- Housing instability
- Limited access to resources

#### **Opportunities:**

- Expand partnerships
  - Increase wellness checks
  - Strengthen in-home and community-based support
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### **3.4 District Council Member Reports**

#### **Joseph Williams – Community Engagement**

- Promoted available resources:
  - Coats, hygiene kits, food

### **Engagement Highlights:**

- Senior programming and wellness checks
- School and community outreach
- Business engagement
- Voter education initiatives

### **Safety Concerns:**

- Building and fire safety issues addressed
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### **Public Safety Initiative**

- Removal of illegal **replica “torch lighter” guns** from local businesses
  - Increased compliance and community awareness
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### **Dion McGill – Nominating Committee & Mental Health Advocacy**

#### **Commission Updates:**

- 56 applicants reviewed
- Concerns regarding transparency and professionalism

#### **Mental Health Initiatives:**

- Expansion of **CARE pilot program to 24/7 coverage**
- Ordinance development underway

#### **Community Engagement:**

- Encouraged participation in legislative advocacy

#### **Upcoming Event:**

- **Cannabis Symposium**
  - April 22, 2026

- Remove Hub
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## **4. Legislative & Civic Engagement Updates**

### **4.1 Housing Advocacy**

- **“Home for Good” Bill Rally**
  - March 19, 2026, | 9:00 AM
  - National Public Housing Museum

#### **Focus:**

- Housing access and re-entry support

#### **Action Encouraged:**

- Submit witness slips
  - Contact legislators
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### **4.2 Transparency & Public Access**

- Launch of **CCPSA website** with improved access to:
    - Meeting minutes
    - Agendas
    - Council information
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### **4.3 Upcoming Meeting**

- **April 15, 2026, | 6:00 PM**
  - Hamilton Park Field House, 513 W. 72nd St.
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## **5. Action Items**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Disseminate youth & family resources.	Family Focus / JAC	Ongoing
Educate seniors on scam prevention.	Teamwork Englewood	By April 15
Strengthen senior outreach partnerships.	All organizations	Ongoing
Advocate for housing legislation.	Community stakeholders	Immediate
Report/remove illegal replica guns	Community members	Ongoing
Organize Cannabis Symposium	Dion / District Councils	By April 22
Expand CARE mental health response.	Working group	Ongoing
Improve the transparency of minutes.	District Council / CCPSA	In progress
Distribute resource materials	Council members	Ongoing

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## 6. Follow-Up Priorities

- Monitor **Home for Good** legislation
  - Expand **senior outreach and support initiatives**
  - Track **CARE program expansion**
  - Increase community civic participation
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## 7. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at approximately **7:47 PM**