



DISTRICT COUNCILS

COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

District Council 007

Regular Public Meeting Minutes

Meeting Type: Regular Public Meeting

Date: July 15, 2026

Time: 6:16 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.

Location: Hamilton Park Fieldhouse, 513 W. 72nd Street, Chicago, Illinois

Chair: Teresa Chandler

Council Attendance

Attendee	Status
Teresa Chandler, Chair	Present
Dion McGill, Council Member	Present
Joseph Williams, Community Engagement	Absent
CPD Officer Shepherd	Present
COC Dannette K. Salaam	Present

Community members and local stakeholders were also in attendance.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Teresa Chandler called the meeting to order at **6:16 p.m.** Roll was taken, and a quorum was established.

II. Approval of Remote Attendance

No requests for remote attendance were presented.

III. Approval of Agenda

The meeting agenda was reviewed and approved by the Council.

IV. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

No previous meeting minutes were presented for approval.

V. Public Comment

Members of the public were provided an opportunity to address the Council. No significant initial public comments were made, and the meeting proceeded to the scheduled discussion items.

VI. Public Discussion on District Trends and Community Concerns

The Council facilitated a discussion regarding current public safety trends and neighborhood concerns.

Topics Included:

- Youth gatherings
 - Violence prevention
 - Public safety resources
 - Restorative justice
 - Community engagement
 - Public health initiatives
-

VII. Reports from Council Members

Council Member Dion McGill

Council Member McGill reported on recent community engagement and outreach efforts, including:

- Participation in farmers markets, youth town halls, quarterly District Council meetings, community canvassing, and neighborhood outreach.
- Advocacy for permanent funding of Crisis Care Teams within the City's public safety budget through petitions and legislative outreach.

- Distribution of Know Your Rights materials in response to increased immigration enforcement activity.
- Distribution of Narcan and fentanyl test strips to support overdose prevention.
- Participation in Pride events, reparations discussions, Public Defender forums regarding Citation in Lieu of Arrest, and meetings with state and local officials concerning budget priorities.
- Publication of community outreach materials and continued advocacy for youth violence prevention.
- Ongoing efforts to increase transparency regarding City and Chicago Police Department budget processes through future public educational sessions.

Council Member McGill also reported:

- Attendance at the June 25 Youth Town Hall and June 27 Farmers Market.
- Participation in discussions with the Lieutenant Governor's Office regarding public safety funding.
- Continued advocacy for crisis response funding and youth violence prevention.
- An upcoming appearance on *Chicago Tonight* to discuss Superintendent Snelling's retirement and broader public safety issues.

VIII. Commission Update

No formal updates from the Community Commission were presented.

IX. Police District Report

Officer Shepherd presented the District Command Report covering activity since **June 17, 2026**.

Major Incidents

- 3 homicides
- 12 shootings
- 4 vehicular hijackings

Calls for Service

- More than 5,000 total calls for service
- Approximately 3,500 general service calls
- 663 traffic stops

- 253 arrests

Officer Shepherd also noted:

- Increased police staffing contributed to a higher volume of calls for service.
- Some shootings are never officially reported because victims decline to cooperate, creating reporting gaps.
- Violent crime occurred throughout the day rather than primarily during overnight hours.
- Social media continues to complicate law enforcement responses to rapidly developing public gatherings.
- Investigative stops and their legal standards were discussed and clarified.

Community members also expressed concerns regarding registered sex offenders residing approximately **0.6 to 0.8 miles** from neighborhood schools and requested continued monitoring as schools prepare to reopen.

X. Hearings and Discussions

A. Youth Gatherings and Violence Prevention

Chair Teresa Chandler led a discussion regarding large youth gatherings occurring throughout Chicago and other metropolitan areas.

Discussion included:

- Recognition that this issue extends beyond Chicago and affects cities nationwide and internationally.
- Concerns that current diversion efforts emphasize discussion without sufficient implementation.
- Questions regarding safe locations where youth can gather if displaced from beaches and other public spaces.
- Support for proactive rather than reactive approaches.
- The importance of developing supervised "third places" for youth.
- Recognition that only a small percentage of participants engage in disruptive or criminal behavior.
- Discussion that some disruptive participants may be older young adults rather than teenagers.
- Continued efforts to replace negative terminology such as "*teen takeovers*" with more constructive language, including "*teen gatherings*" and "*community gatherings*."

Community Programming Discussed

- Resource fairs
- Basketball tournaments
- Community Spades Tournament scheduled for July 30
- Pop-up youth events
- Mentorship opportunities involving retired police officers and community leaders
- Youth programming developed directly from youth input

B. Local and Citywide Approaches

Council members emphasized the importance of implementing neighborhood-based solutions while broader citywide initiatives continue to develop.

Discussion included:

- Immediate local action without waiting for citywide initiatives.
- Partnerships among residents, nonprofit organizations, businesses, schools, and law enforcement.
- Continued investment in community-led programming.

C. Resource and Funding Challenges

Discussion focused on funding limitations affecting community programming.

Topics included:

- Loss of nonprofit funding for violence prevention programs.
- Need for additional investment in youth programming.
- Expanded partnerships between community organizations and law enforcement.
- Municipal revenue and long-term public investment.
- Limited resources for after-school programming, parks, crisis response, and violence prevention.
- Sustainable funding strategies.

D. Social Media and Real-Time Trends

Members discussed the role of social media in organizing large youth gatherings.

Officer Shepherd described the challenges of responding to events that can grow from dozens to hundreds or thousands of participants within minutes.

Additional discussion included:

- Rapid location changes coordinated through social media.

- Specialized social media monitoring units utilized in New York and other cities.
- Challenges associated with rapidly evolving online activity.

E. Accountability, Restorative Justice, and Community Services

Members discussed differing perspectives regarding accountability for youth offenses.

Topics included:

- Restorative justice alternatives
- Community service opportunities
- Family support services
- Parental accountability proposals
- Housing instability
- Food insecurity
- Trauma
- Limited access to counseling and mental health services
- Citation in Lieu of Arrest for qualifying low-level offenses
- Restorative justice models used in Philadelphia and other jurisdictions

F. Youth Spaces and Community Services

Council members expressed strong support for creating permanent youth centers and supervised gathering spaces.

Ideas discussed included:

- Repurposing vacant schools into community centers
- Multi-service community facilities
- Counseling and therapy services
- Workforce development programs
- Co-locating nonprofit organizations, crisis response teams, and community services
- Reviewing international examples, including Glasgow, Scotland, where youth-centered investments contributed to reductions in violence

G. Transparency and Public Safety

Council members discussed:

- Continued community engagement
- Budget transparency
- Public education regarding City funding processes
- Expansion of Crisis Care Teams

- Ongoing neighborhood outreach
- Increased education regarding City and CPD budget processes
- Continued advocacy for permanent Crisis Care Team funding

H. Community Health and Well-Being

Members highlighted ongoing outreach efforts, including:

- Distribution of water and health education materials
 - Diabetes and stroke prevention education
 - Community walks with clergy, elected officials, and neighborhood organizations
 - Partnerships with local businesses
 - Youth and family engagement activities
 - Book launches, fashion shows, and additional neighborhood events promoting health, safety, and community engagement
-

XI. Presentations

No formal presentations were scheduled.

XII. Actions, Recommendations, and Future Priorities

Youth Engagement

- Continue basketball tournaments, Spades tournaments, resource fairs, and youth programming.
- Expand partnerships with community organizations.
- Continue developing programming based on community input.
- Evaluate opportunities to repurpose vacant schools and public buildings into youth centers.

Legislative Advocacy

- Continue petition efforts supporting permanent funding for Crisis Care Teams.
- Prepare future ordinance proposals.
- Advocate for sustainable public safety funding.

Community Facilities

- Continue evaluating vacant public buildings for conversion into multi-service youth centers.

Transparency

- Organize public education sessions regarding City and CPD budget processes.
- Improve public understanding of budget allocations and funding streams.

Community Safety

- Continue monitoring community concerns regarding registered sex offenders residing near schools.
- Continue distributing Know Your Rights materials and other public safety resources.

Restorative Justice

- Explore expanded restorative justice options for nonviolent youth offenses.
- Continue evaluating diversion and community service opportunities.

Health and Crisis Response

- Continue advocating for expansion of Crisis Care Teams with extended operating hours.
- Continue Narcan distribution and harm reduction outreach.

No formal resolutions requiring Council votes were adopted during this meeting.

XIII. Announcements and Adjournment

Upcoming Events

- **July 22, 2026:** District Council community canvassing with the Workers Center for Racial Justice
- **July 30, 2026:** Community Spades Tournament at the police station

Council Member Dion McGill announced an upcoming appearance on *Chicago Tonight* to discuss Superintendent Snelling's retirement and broader public safety issues.

Next Regular District Council Meeting

Date: August 19, 2026

Location: Lindblom Park Fieldhouse

There being no further business, Chair Teresa Chandler adjourned the meeting at **7:15 p.m.**