



DISTRICT COUNCILS

COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Minutes from Public Meeting

DC 024 will be holding a public meeting. Below are the details:

- Meeting Type: Regular
- Date: March 22, 2026
- Start Time: 3:05 PM
- End Time: 4:16 PM
- Location: Indo-American Center 6328 N California Ave, Chicago, IL

District Council Member Name	Attendance
Chair: Veronica Arreola	Present: X Remote: ☐ Absent: ☐
Community Engagement: Keola Jean-Joseph	Present: X Remote: ☐ Absent: ☐
Nominating Committee: Marilyn Pagan-Banks	Present: Remote: X Absent: ☐
Quorum (2 out of 3 Members): Yes: X No: ☐	

Attendance	
# of attendees in person	4
# of attendees virtual	1
# of CPD attendees	0
CPD rank of attendees	n/a

Public Comment:

- I. -Community Services Overview by Indo-American Center Services for Seniors: Food provision, organized activities, field trips Citizenship Classes & Immigration Support: Active immigration and benefits departments Role in Community: Comprehensive facilities and support for local residents
 1. Community Member: Encourages council to act as an active conduit for community reports of police abuse/misconduct, not merely refer to COPA (Civilian Office of Police Accountability). Calls for imagination and more direct, public responses (e.g., virtual press conferences for credible allegations). Emphasizes that procedural limitations are not as restrictive as presumed.

Community Member from A JUST Harvest: Criminalization of Homelessness and Ticketing on Public Transit:

- Raised by "Montreal" (Just Harvest): Issue: Homeless individuals are being ticketed for being present in certain public areas (notably under the "hill" and on trains),

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despite having no ability to pay, leading to potential future incarceration. The Just Harvest Wellness Center provides rest, snacks, and shelter, but sees first-hand the continued cycle of ticketing and lack of resources.

- Discussion Points: Tickets are not currently seen as serious by those receiving them, but the risk of escalation to incarceration is high. Discussion about emergency overnight shelter at Just Harvest (activated under extreme weather). Need for resources/alternatives rather than punitive ticketing; officers sometimes do refer unhoused individuals to warming centers. Question raised on whether police have resources on-hand (pamphlets, information) and what their formal procedure is; suggestion to address this at commander meetings. Underlying theme: Criminalization does not solve the issue and can increase harm.

2.

II. Approval of Minutes: January and February meeting minutes approved

III. Trends & Concerns:

A. Policy and Systemic Punitive Approaches:

- a. Community feedback emphasizes the need for restorative rather than punitive responses to homelessness or criminalized behavior. Concerns about enforcement-based policies driven by federal funding requirements and public/media narratives, particularly increased police presence on CTA due to rising crime statistics.

B. Youth and Violence Prevention; Street Organization Mediation:

- a. Ongoing mediation work mentioned between rival groups in Rogers Park (notably Howard vs. Farwell), ongoing since 2009.
- b. Emphasis on: The importance of credible messengers and lived experience in violence intervention. Need for positive alternatives (mentoring, sports, activities) and trusted adult engagement. Recognition of peer influence and the need for both time and consistent intervention.
- c. Critique of “Carve-outs” and Structural Focus: Criticism that citywide safety/public health approaches are often reduced to “carve-outs” (focusing only on students/youth or unhoused) rather than systemic support for all marginalized Black communities. Concerns that program curation may be influenced by interests/comfort of non-Black and higher-class populations.
- d. Accountability of Businesses and Nonprofits Suggestion to assess and “score” businesses and nonprofits on: Local hiring practices. Participation in criminalizing or surveilling youth (e.g., sound deterrents, calling police). Overall impact on vulnerable populations. Caution raised about co-optation of “lived experience” voices not pushing for systemic change.

IV. Reports from the Councilors

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Chair: Participation in press conference/petition to State's Attorney for a special prosecutor related to ICE misconduct. My Block My Hood founder, Jamal Cole, is living in Westridge this month; planned but postponed meeting to discuss possible collaborations. Citywide district councilors' quarterly meeting—violence prevention and CTA safety are major ongoing themes across districts.

Community Engagement: Attended and tabled at multiple community events (library chats, GAP/REAC for outreach, 40th Ward election security event, One North Side "Building Safe Communities," Carper's meeting on survivors of torture/wrongful convictions). Noted upcoming "District Council Chats" event planned for April 25, 2026 (location TBD).

Nominations: Nominations for new commission members: Six nominees submitted; waiting for mayoral selection (within 30 days). Reflection on lessons learned from nominating process—restorative practices, internal council accountability, desire for systemic (vs. individual) accountability structures. Participation/standing up for accountability at citywide quarterly meetings

V. Trends and Concerns: Commander's Report:

1. District and Evanston police coordination; some information not shareable cross-jurisdictionally. Increased efforts to address drug market near Howard Red Line. Notable increase in older women (possibly local and non-local) seeking drugs. Open question regarding whether heightened enforcement on trains has shifted activity (overdoses, arrests) to endpoints or is impacting local community specifically. Emergent trend: Uptick in violence within the Rohingya refugee community; possibility of formalized gang formation noticed. Noted existence of hate graffiti in the district.
2. Illinois House Bill 1429: Bill aims to decriminalize homelessness, limit/restrict city and county ticketing/punitive policies, especially towards the unhoused. Council and public encouraged to watch/support this bill.

VI. Presentations

None

VII. Final Announcements and Adjournment

- Next Meeting Date: April 12th
- Next Meeting Time: 3:00 PM
- Location: Loyola Park
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