



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: April 12th, 2026
- Start Time: 3:07 PM
- End Time: 4:25 PM
- Location: Loyola Park 1230 W. Greenleaf 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: X Remote : ☐ Absent: ☐
Quorum (2 out of 3 Members): Yes: X No: ☐	

Attendance	
# of attendees in person	4
# of attendees virtual	2
# of CPD attendees	0
CPD rank of attendees	n/a

I. Public Comment

-none

II. Reports from the Councilors

- The council's nominating representative described the process for seating new members; currently 22 counselors or near that number; 6 names were nominated, 3 seated, 2 confirmed by the Mayor, one pending. New north/south representation: Angelique Guzman (north/youth rep), Angenette Young (south).
- Counselor joined the Wellness and Care Committee. Efforts continue to increase intentional coordination between council leadership
- Rescheduled meeting with district commander
- Glenwood Arts Festival Vote to allocate \$1,545 for festival participation (table, tent, chairs, supplies). Budget tracked from overall \$5,000 allocation; requests for additional promotional/engagement materials (e.g., banners, swag). Discussion of cross-group/partner

District Council Public Meeting Notice & Agenda, continued

tabling and potential for groups like CP4P (Committee Partners for Peace) and DC20 to be involved

- Grant Proposal Planning A colleague shared a grant opportunity for innovative public safety interventions – letter of intent due soon. Possible project aligned with restorative/harm-reduction model at the Howard L station. Discussion about how innovation is often valued over traditional “sustainability” in funding cycles; need to adjust existing, successful programs with new approaches. Plan for a special meeting on April 15 (6:00 pm), location tbd, for focused grant discussion and drafting of the letter of intent

III. Trends and Concerns

- Council acknowledged recent shootings: A recent shooting discussed with the district commander (no further update shared). Another shooting on the preceding Wednesday, near Councilor’s residence. Discussion extended to peace initiatives and difficulties: Noted that some community members are not ready for peace conversations due to ongoing impact and need for healing, restoration, and repair
- Tensions and Peace Agreements Concerns were raised about inviting groups involved in peace negotiations to open community events prematurely. Some groups are not ready for joint events due to unresolved tensions. Specific incidents referenced: Recent shooting in West Ridge (on a Wednesday; daytime/early evening). No personal sense of heightened danger, but recognition of ongoing neighborhood disputes/fears. Ongoing disputes identified between different
- Property Crimes Increase in thefts of catalytic converters (rapid, within 2 minutes) and tires across Rogers Park. Discussion of preventive measures: Residents advised to write VIN numbers on catalytic converters and use physical locks. Past efforts included spray painting as a theft deterrent; Aldermen are sometimes involved in these initiatives.
- Economic Hardship & “Crimes of Need”: Rising cost of necessities (examples: \$60 for five grocery items; higher gas prices) leads to consideration of “crimes of necessity.” Personal anecdotes shared underscoring the moral and practical complexities faced by low-resource community members. Strong opposition to further criminalization of poverty; focus instead on non-policing, mutual aid, and bartering economies
- Restorative and Harm Reduction Initiatives Just Harvest has initiated safe resting spaces and is collaborating with medical partners (including Advocate Hospital and local clinics) for a potential mobile clinic to provide services
- Discussion about grant opportunities for innovative public safety approaches, with a proposal to align with “urban policing, drug enforcement, and advancing safety and justice across jurisdictions.”

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- Police-Community Relations: General sentiment collected from new and existing residents around CPD presence: Divergence between neighborhoods wanting more policing vs. those feeling over-policed. Preference for police on foot conducting "beat walks" versus remaining in patrol cars. Ongoing issues with inconsistency of police engagement in business districts (example: unoccupied, stationary police cruisers). Community engagement officers are trying to increase youth and public outreach but with varied success depending on the locality.
- Employment and Rehabilitative Pathways: Noted need for sustainable programming to support job readiness and reintegration for those transitioning out of street life or substance use. Mentioned organizations: Howard Area Community Center, Family Guidance Center, Lighthouse (addiction research and mobile services), Chicago Recovery Alliance. Emphasis on pipeline/step-by-step process: basic needs, job readiness, ongoing support
- Youth, Teens, & Use of Public Space: Discussion on the shortage of summer jobs for teens, need for third spaces (public, safe, non-home environments), and challenges around "teen takeovers" and adult perceptions. Inconsistent availability of meaningful work and recreation for local teens in the district; concern that exclusion from public/social spaces channels them into unsupervised or riskier behaviors. The existence of TP (Teens in the Park) programs and calls for more investment in teen-friendly infrastructure and programming.

IV. Presentations

None

V. Final Announcements and Adjournment

- Next Meeting Date: May 17
- Next Meeting Time: 3:00 PM
- Location: Edgewater Branch Library - 6000 N. Broadway
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