1ST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

DISTRICT COUNCIL 001
COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY
MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular
Meeting Date: September 15, 2026
Meeting Location: Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State Street, Meeting Room 3N6
Meeting Start Time: 3:00 PM
Meeting Adjourned: 3:45 PM

Attendees: CPD Commander Mannion, Captain Soshi & 13 Community Members

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District Council Member Attendance

Name	Role	Present	Remote	Absent
Sarah Kammerer	Chair	☒	☐	☐
Adrienne Johnson	Nominator	☒	☐	☐
Jamie Brown	Community Engagement	☐	☐	☒

Quorum Met*: Yes

* In compliance with the Open Meetings Act (OMA), meetings require at least two members physically present to proceed.

Approval of Minutes

The District Council did not have minutes to approve.

Public Comment

Comment 1: Previous work at CPD in the 1990's when community policing was first getting started; worked under two different Superintendents who displayed differing levels of commitment to community engagement; the next Superintendent should be a leader who is a policy/communications/leadership administrator who can develop a leadership team that can creatively change CPD as a department, with a focus on alternative response models to reallocate resources and move lower priority calls to other City departments; the next Superintendent should also have a clean record without any problematic issues.

Discussion

The Councilors held a listening session with community members to generate input for the Commission's CPD Superintendent search.

- Councilor Kammerer thanked attendees for joining the meeting and provided framing for the discussion:
  - 38 online responses to the Commission's community input form, one of the top five highest submission rates in the city among the districts. The District Council encourages more people to fill it out.
  - Important to lift up the voice of the 1st District.
  - The 1st District is where the city truly comes together. Many residents who live in the 1st District are not from downtown – they are choosing to live here.
  - Information about the Superintendent search process is available online at the CCPSA website.
  - Today's session is an opportunity for community members to share "what's real for you" – no need to be extra polished with what you say; "consider questions deeper than just leadership qualities and policy solutions", including why you live downtown and what the next Superintendent should understand about the 1st District.
- Councilor Johnson provided additional welcoming comments:
  - In addition to filling out the online form, community members should feel free to reach out to the Councilors because Councilors can give their own input to the Commission.
  - Community members are welcome to call Councilors, meet up, go out for coffee, and talk more about their interests.
  - The Superintendent search team is conducting listening sessions with different groups, including a youth listening session.
- Comments from the public:
  - Constituent 1 has a history of being actively involved with CPD. He focused on three issues. First, he said it's important for the next Superintendent to "push back" on the Mayor, who does not understand the 1st District. This district experiences huge foot traffic and is the largest destination for tourism in the Midwest, but businesses are leaving Michigan Ave due to the Mayor's policies. Second, the next Superintendent needs to increase trainings for CPD that actually work. Trainings right now focus on disengaging and restraint – this does not work. Third, the next Superintendent "needs to stand up and back up their officers so they know that when they make an arrest, it will stick, and people will go to jail." The judicial system's tendency of releasing people that officers arrest is discouraging for the police.

- Constituent 2 asked about the Superintendent appointment process and conveyed that the process as outlined is far too short. The process will yield only a limited pool of applicants, and the process faces a challenge with the timing of the mayoral elections.
  - Councilor Johnson explained that the process is outlined in the Ordinance, and the Commission has brought on a search firm to assist.
  - Councilor Kammerer reminded the room that if people have issues with the process itself, since the process is based on municipal code, they should talk to their alderperson.
- Constituent 1 built off Constituent 2's comment by asking why we should continue to work with a "broken process".
  - Councilor Kammerer explained that the focus of the DC is on building trust, transparency, and accountability; this is where we are with the process, and we are here to collect input for that, especially considering that downtown has not always been included in this process.
  - Councilor Johnson agreed, adding that she advocated for the Commission to hold a listening session downtown. The Commission did not do that, so the District Council decided to focus two monthly meetings on gathering input on the search process.
- Constituent 3 spoke on behalf of the local public safety committee she leads. She reflected on how the 1st District has a spectrum of age groups and a "big mix of people" including people who have been residents their entire lives and people newly arriving. Constituent 3 said the issues people find the hardest are the sense of increasing crime, the increase in traffic, and the lack of plans in what will be done about it. One key crime issue is theft, especially with vehicles. The next Superintendent needs to communicate proactively to prevent increased fear and promote increased awareness. People need to know early how they will be impacted. People need to know the plan.
- Constituent 4 took issue with the structure of CAPS meetings in the last several years. The restructuring decision "came from up high". There used to be 4-5 CAPS groups, but now they are so broken up across the district, you end of not learning as much, not meeting new people, not being as connected, and not having robust discussions. The next Superintendent should address this.
- Constituent 5 discussed the importance of de-escalation in how policing happens in Chicago and the 1st District. She described how the Consent Decree came about to address a history of racist police practices, torture practices, and missteps that led to costly legal settlements. She said the police need more trainings on procedure, culture, and how to interact with diverse populations. This matters to the 1st District, with so many people moving into the area. She said it's important to consider how newcomers are treated, and for police to focus on de-escalation and avoiding chases and other police tactics that lead to more harm and threats to safety. We need more calm and more community interactions. The next Superintendent needs to treat the Consent Decree as an ongoing commitment to a new culture of policing, not just something to get done.

- Constituent 6 responded to Constituent 5's comment on legal settlements. She suggested that the City should not be spending so much on costly legal settlements that ultimately will not reimburse people for the harm done from a few past mistakes. She also called for fixing CAPS. She added that the Superintendent needs to understand that the 1st District is part of this city. Lastly, she brought up the need for the Superintendent to help improve CTA safety so that "people can feel safe to use the CTA", especially in underground stations, to ensure the 1st District can stay connected with the rest of the city. She shared how much the Superintendent understands how much people appreciate feeling safe walking outside at night. She wants CPD to understand this message, because it used to not be that way in Chicago.
- Constituent 1 responded to Constituent 5 by re-upping that the central issue is the judicial system releasing people who have been arrested. He expressed concern about the amount of money the City has spent on a "consulting group" for the Consent Decree. Regarding Constituent 5's comments about race, he noted that everyone in the 1st District is invited to the Council's meetings. He said race makes no difference for a person who is defending themselves against violence and crime. He expressed that we all are in this together and we need to work together to help each other as a community. The most important suggestion for the search for the next Superintendent is to select someone from within CPD who understands the city, the people, and the officers. The Superintendent "should have impeccable integrity, and who looks out for the officers and well as the citizens, because we go all hand-in-hand." The Superintendent needs to understand why some people choose not to help the police respond to crimes even when they have relevant and important information.
- Constituent 3 proposed the idea of CPD improving proactive communications via citizen report aps, leveraging digital platforms to put out information instead of forcing people to seek it out from 3rd parties from the private sector.
- Constituent 7 expressed the need for the next Superintendent to increase collaboration with CVI groups to relieve pressures on CPD, especially regarding the handling of youth gatherings. She connected this to the issue of officer wellness; police seem to experience something akin to daily PTSD from their jobs and are the targets of so much blame. She also said that the next Superintendent should have strong public communication skills, noting the last Superintendent had a strength in communicating with media and showing collaboration with CVI groups, that it is possible, and "everything doesn't have to be polarized". She also agreed with others on the critical issue of CTA safety.
- Constituent 8 responded to earlier comments on youth issues. She said that the "teen takeovers" are concerning, but the City needs to protect youths and prevent incidents from staining their record just because they make a mistake. The new Superintendent needs to focus on this by launching a task force with community that protects youths and senior citizens as well. She said that what we can't do is just arrest youths. The next Superintendent must have better strategy.

- Constituent 1 responded to Constituent 8's comment by underscoring the need for stronger law enforcement against youths who violate the law. He referenced a recent "teen takeover" incident in Los Angeles that resulted in a high number of tickets being issued and cars being confiscated, compared to a similar recent incident in Chicago where no tickets were issued and no cars were confiscated. He noted that youths can have their records expunged. He also noted that many of the "youths" involved in safety incidents are above the age of 18 and are not "kids".
- Constituent 9 said she "no longer believe[s] anyone who says crime is down" and does not believe crime statistics. She said she has witness or heard of multiple crimes that went unreported. Crime statistics "mean nothing to us" when people see no point in reporting crime.
- Constituent 1 agreed, critiquing the judicial system and government leaders for permitting crimes to happen without consequences. He pointed to the commonality of robberies taking place at Walgreens without any interventions or charges being pressed. He said people are "asking [police] to do their job blindfolded with one hand behind their back". He also noted not enough police recruits. The next Superintendent needs to find solutions that work for everyone.

- Councilor Kammerer closed out the session by expressing appreciation for her neighbors showing the willingness to speak, and the District Council cares deeply about elevating their voices. She said the most encouraging experience she has had as a District Councilor is "seeing that there are a lot of people who are trying to make it better". She also acknowledged that nothing moves fast enough right now, but when the community shares their experiences with police, it helps the police prevent crimes from repeating. She stated that the community is allowed to not be satisfied. She said the 1st District Council works hard to meet residents across the district and stays in touch with many neighborhood groups, with the goal of "trying to meet people where they are". She reminded people to fill out the input form, even if it's anonymous. She encouraged neighbors to invite the District Councilors to their building and local meetings. The District Council wants to listen, connect, and make it easier for people to share their experiences.

Announcements

Councilor Adrienne Johnson shared the following announcements:

- The Nominating Committee is preparing to launch an application for the final Commission vacancy after the end of Commission Vice President Rubi Navarijo's term; applicants must be northside residents between the ages 18-24 at the time of appointment.
- Upcoming Superintendent search youth listening session on the West side next week.

- Commission holds its September public meeting on Thursday, September 24 at DePaul College Prep. Councilor Johnson tries to attend Commission meetings to bring back updates to the community. She shared that last month's Commission meeting focused on an amendment to the Commission's bylaws.
- COPA People's Academy 6-week program begins today, 6-8:30 PM. The program will provide education on how COPA works, how the Consent Decree came to be, and other notable topics on police accountability.
- Councilor Johnson encouraged people to tag her in conversations about local public safety issues on Facebook.
- Alder forum coming up at Grace Episcopal Church on September 29. At least four Alders will be in attendance.
- CPD has four different policies on its website for public comment until September 17. Community members should visit the website to review the policies.

Councilor Sarah Kammerer offered time for any final comments from community members before thanking everyone for attending and adjourning the meeting.

Next Meeting Details

Date: October 13, 2026, 6:00PM
Location: Maggie Daley Park Fieldhouse, 337 E. Randolph St., Chicago, IL 60601