



DISTRICT COUNCILS

COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

DC 002 Regular Public Meeting Minutes

Date: June 18, 2026

Time: 6:05 PM – 7:39 PM

Location: Washington Park Refectory, 5531 S. Russell Drive, Chicago, IL

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM by Councilor Lee.

Attendance

- Councilor Alexander Perez
- Councilor Lee
- Councilor McDonald (Excused Absence – chaperoning district youth participants in Japan)
- Community attendees and speakers
- Deputy Mayor of Public Safety Emmanuel Andre (Guest Presenter)
- No CPD
- 20 Meeting Attendees
- Dannette Kennedy-Salaam (COC)

A quorum was established.

II. Approval of Remote Attendance of Councilor

Councilor McDonald's absence was reviewed and accepted as excused due to district-related youth engagement activities in Japan. No remote participation was requested.

III. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and approved as previously circulated. No additional items were added.

IV. Approval of Past Minutes

1. Approval of May 19, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve May 19, 2026, meeting minutes passed unanimously.

V. Public Comment

The Council received comments from community members regarding public safety, youth engagement, and neighborhood quality-of-life concerns.

Notable Public Comments

Pastor Doyle

- Recognized June 20 as the birthday of former State Senator Alice Palmer and commemorated Lori Eason.
- Raised concerns regarding property damage, recurring criminal incidents, and reluctance within the community to directly address repeat misconduct.

Second Attendee

- Discussed ongoing collaboration efforts addressing youth-related concerns.
- Announced a community meeting scheduled for June 23 at August Standard Church.
- Encouraged participation in a community WhatsApp group to support continued engagement.

Melissa McNeil, East Hyde Park Neighborhood Coalition

- Expressed concern that enforcement activity at public beaches may be displacing youth gatherings into residential neighborhoods.
- Requested clarification regarding city strategies for youth engagement and public safety.

General Public Sentiment

Community members expressed frustration with what they viewed as reactive rather than proactive responses to recurring youth gatherings, property destruction, and public disorder.

VI. Public Discussion on Trends and Concerns in the District

The Council facilitated an open discussion regarding prevailing public safety issues and community concerns.

Teen Gatherings and Public Disorder

Discussion focused on:

- Increased unsanctioned youth gatherings.
- Property damage and disruptive behavior.
- Lack of youth programming and accessible gathering spaces.
- Limited parental involvement and accountability.
- Need for holistic approaches beyond traditional enforcement.

Program and Space Gaps

Community members and violence interrupters noted:

- Insufficient programming for youth older than age 12.
- Early closure of recreational facilities.
- Underutilization of Park District and YMCA resources.
- Need for expanded evening and weekend programming.

Policing and Youth Engagement

Participants discussed:

- Reliance on law enforcement as primary responders.
- Need for greater investment in youth workers and social service interventions.
- Increased community and parental accountability.

Transparency and Public Information

Residents requested:

- Clearer information regarding curfew enforcement.
- Youth arrest and citation procedures.
- Use-of-force policies.
- Public availability of youth resources and facility hours.

Upcoming Community Event

Emergency Town Hall

- Date: June 22, 2026
- Time: 6:00 PM
- Location: Washington Park Refectory

Purpose: To convene community members, youth, parents, faith leaders, businesses, and law enforcement representatives to develop recommendations addressing youth gatherings and community safety concerns.

VII. Reports from Councilors

Councilor Alexander Perez – Community Engagement Report

Recent Engagement Activities

- Represented the district at the National Conference for Student Engagement.
- Participated in children's art events and block club meetings.
- Continued circulation of a petition supporting full funding for the CARE Program.

Upcoming Events

- Outdoor Roll Call: June 27, 2026, at 12:00 PM, 46th & Vincennes.
- District Court Meeting: June 27, 2026.
- Children's Art Event in Hyde Park (July 2026, date TBD).
- Cybersecurity seminar in partnership with Alderman Pat Dow (date TBD).

Together with the Youth Policy Proposal

Councilor Perez presented the "Together to Youth" proposal, intended to address youth-related public safety concerns through coordinated, community-driven planning.

Key Components

- Utilize existing District Strategic Plans (DSPs).
- Establish measurable SMART objectives.
- Create multi-stakeholder task forces including:
 - o Youth officers
 - o Violence interrupters
 - o Community organizations
 - o Schools
 - o Parents
 - o Youth representatives

- o Faith leaders

Issues Identified

- Existing youth-related DSP goals lack measurable outcomes.
- Community participation in planning processes remains low.
- Current initiatives often operate independently without coordination.

Next Steps

The proposal will continue through the CCPSA review process and requires additional support for placement on the June 27 agenda.

Community Partnership Challenges

Violence interrupters and grassroots organizations reported:

- Delays in receiving responses from city agencies.
- Difficulty securing support for intervention efforts.
- Desire for stronger collaboration and inclusion in planning processes.

VIII. Update from the Commission

Discussion included updates regarding civilian oversight initiatives, policy development, and district engagement efforts.

Particular attention was given to:

- District Strategic Plans.
- Community participation rates.
- Upcoming CCPSA policy discussions.

IX. Report from the Police District

District representatives provided updates concerning public safety conditions, youth-related incidents, and recent emergency response activities.

Discussion included:

- Community concerns regarding youth gatherings.
 - District response strategies.
 - Upcoming engagement opportunities with detectives and command staff.
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X. Hearings and Discussions

1. Discussion of Local Public Safety Issues

The Council discussed:

- Teen gatherings and public disorder.
- Property damage.
- Resource allocation.
- Community-based prevention strategies.

2. Discussion of Local Policing Concerns

Topics included:

- Curfew enforcement procedures.
 - Transparency in police operations.
 - Community understanding of arrest and citation processes.
 - Police-community engagement initiatives.
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XI. Presentation by Councilor Alexander Perez and Deputy Mayor Emmanuel Andre

Guest Presenter: Deputy Mayor Emmanuel Andre

Deputy Mayor Andre presented the City's Summer Safety Plan and discussed the Mayor's Office of Community Safety priorities.

Key Topics

Strategic Priorities

- Youth engagement and prevention.
- Community violence intervention.
- Reentry services.
- Wellness and gender-based violence services.

Youth Engagement Strategy

- Increased focus on youth identified as at risk.
- Expanded neighborhood-specific programming.
- Goal of full engagement for youth at the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center.

Response to Teen Gatherings

Discussion addressed:

- Lack of attractive and accessible programming.
- Need for neighborhood-based gathering spaces.
- Importance of language and framing when discussing youth behavior.

Resource Commitments

- Twice-weekly city coordination meetings.
- Continued use of violence interrupters.
- Non-police intervention strategies.

Summer Employment

- Approximately 37,000 youth secured summer employment opportunities.
- Approximately 20,000 applicants remained unplaced.

XII. Final Actions

1. Discussion of Resolution Regarding Commission Policy

The Council reviewed policy priorities including:

- CARE Program expansion.
- Youth engagement metrics.
- District Strategic Plan accountability measures.
- Community oversight initiatives.

No final vote was conducted on the Together to Youth proposal during this meeting.

Operational and Accountability Updates

CARE Program

Council members discussed expansion of the CARE Program and its role in responding to nonviolent mental health emergencies.

Police Accountability

Updates were provided regarding:

- COPA investigations.
- Sustained disciplinary findings.
- Ongoing transparency initiatives.

Storm Response

Council members discussed the June 10–11 severe weather event and encouraged residents to complete the Illinois Residential Self-Assessment Survey.

XIII. Final Announcements and Adjournment

Upcoming Events

- Emergency Town Hall – June 22, 2026, 6:00 PM, Washington Park Refectory
- Outdoor Roll Call – June 27, 2026, 12:00 PM
- 2nd District Council Meeting – July 11, 2026, Washington Park Field House
5531 S. Russell Dr
- Children's Art Event – July 2026 (TBD)
- Detectives Outreach Sessions – August 18 and September 25, 2026

Community Action Items

- Support CARE Program advocacy efforts.
- Expand community engagement networks and outreach.
- Encourage completion of storm damage assessments.
- Promote youth participation in future planning discussions.
- Continue advocacy for SMART goals within District Strategic Plans.

Residents were encouraged to monitor the District Council Facebook page for updates, surveys, meeting notices, and community resources.