

CITY OF CHICAGO
DISTRICT COUNCIL 004
COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY
MEETING MINUTES

MEETING TYPE: X Regular Special Closed

MEETING DATE: 1/24/2026

MEETING LOCATION & ADDRESS: Hegewisch Library 3048 East 130th Street

MEETING START TIME: 12:10 pm

Attendance & Quorum

The OMA Meeting cannot take place without 2 out of 3 members present in person.

District Council Member Name	Attendance
Chair: Lovie Bernard	Present: x <input type="checkbox"/> Remote: <input type="checkbox"/> Absent: <input type="checkbox"/>
Nominator: Gloria Jenkins	Present: x <input type="checkbox"/> Remote: <input type="checkbox"/> Absent: <input type="checkbox"/>
Community Engagement: Brenda Waters	Present: x <input type="checkbox"/> Remote: <input type="checkbox"/> Absent: <input type="checkbox"/>

Quorum (2 out of 3 Members): Yes: x No:

Public Comment: N/A

Approval of Minutes

District Councilor Brenda Waters Made a motion to approve December 13,2025 monthly meeting minutes. District Councilor Gloria Jenkins seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved.

004th CPD Report – Captain Barry

- January is generally a quiet month, with no major district events ahead.

The new strategic plan was submitted, outlining targeted engagement "hot spots" for 2026

- Near the Regal Theater
- Around 79th and Yates (including Kingston)
- 106th and Avenue M (east side)
- These are focus zones for engagement efforts and safety.
- 2026 Beat Meeting Schedule finalized: Each beat will now have 10 meetings instead of 8.

- District-wide and sector-focused debriefings are held every Friday via Zoom, facilitating greater attendance during cold weather.

Community Safety Concerns

Lovie Bernard

- Parcel & Package Theft Incident:
- An extended discussion on a recent package theft by an Amazon/UPS delivery employee, with insights into delivery protocol manipulation and the subsequent reporting process, including video evidence and ongoing investigation. Discussion on neighboring package thefts, delivery driver behaviors, and community vigilance.

District Council Focus & Increasing Engagement

- Key concern: Low attendance at beat and public meetings (8-20 attendees, generally same group).

Strategies discussed:

- Workshops and Resource Fairs:
- Plan for Shauna' Williams COC (Area 2) to organize a consolidated Area 2 Resource Fair tentatively for May of 2026.
- Potential venues include Kroc Center, Corliss High School, Olive Harvey, Chicago State University.
- Encourage pooling budgets and resources for larger impact.
- Aim for city departments, youth organizations, and job recruiters to attend.
- Activities for children: jumpers, basketball, ice cream socials.
- Consider collaborating with Districts 4, 5, 022, and neighboring community organizers.
- Event Promotion and Outreach:
- Engage all area aldermen to advertise and promote events.
- Utilize social media (Facebook events), possibly with ad support, to broaden awareness.
- Consider radio promotions (92.3 FM) and other media.
- Distribute information in churches, local schools, businesses, and via community flyers.
- Special Meetings and Collaborations:
- Proposed holding dual meetings or special joint events with neighboring districts, e.g., 5 and 6, though legalities must be checked.
- Suggest monthly "special" meetings, possibly tied before/after regular council meetings for convenience.
- Consider "Coffee with the District Council," "Ice Cream Social," "Pizza with the Council," panel discussions, or events targeting youth in area schools/auditoriums.

Youth Outreach Initiatives

- Past success stories:
- "No Cap" forum at Washington High School—youth Q&A with police officers and community.
- Panel events at local schools, alternative schools, and targeting hard-to-reach youth.

New partnership opportunities

- Connect with Sergeant Miguel Vasquez; explore youth-centered programming.
- Engage youth organizations such as "We United," which focuses on inclusive activities, anti-violence, and support for high-risk youth.
- Suggest focusing on restorative justice, anti-bullying, youth mental health, school partnerships.
- Outreach for school event participation—tabling at games, back-to-school fairs, sporting events, and church collaborations.
- Emphasis on changing the public perception: District Council is "not just here to fight the police," but is about collaborating for community wellbeing.

Public Safety Priorities & Issues

- Geographic focus for 2026:
- 106th/108th (Walgreens/liquor store area)
- Beat 421 (historic)
- 79th/Yates, Kingston area, Merrill, etc.
- Noted ongoing issues in Terror Town and elsewhere, with a call for more robust attention from aldermen and higher officials.

Crime statistics:

- Shootings have decreased in recent years, but homicides have increased.

Quality of Life Concerns

- Discussion on abandoned/trouble buildings contributing to safety problems: arson, assault, drug use.
- Suggest inviting city problem-building departments to meetings for direct services.
- Plan to list and invite relevant city departments based on community-identified needs.

Promotional Materials & Meeting Awareness

- Discussed the effectiveness of flyers and event invitations: current designs perceived as too plain, but official requirements must be met.
- Proposed recurring use of district-branded calendars with all meeting/event dates, distributed to the community.

- Ensure all relevant information is shared with key community contacts (e.g., local leaders, peacekeepers, pastors).

Inter-Organizational & Citywide Collaboration

- Crime Stoppers event: January 31, 2026 (Saturday), 10am-12pm at 3rd District Station (focus on 3rd, 4th, 6th districts).
- Aim: citizens watch programs and proactive public safety initiatives.
- Partnerships with Chicago Youth Centers (CYC) and community organizations for events and outreach.
- On-going need for communication between districts for coordinated events and cross-promotion.

Officer Appreciation & Internal Events

- Discussion around hosting appreciation events for officers (luncheons, coffee, cupcakes) to foster relationships and communication with police staff.
- Logistical considerations: scheduling during shift changes, securing community room access, coordinating food provisioning.
- Noted other districts' partnerships with organizations providing meals for police and community.

Future Meeting Planning & Scheduling

- Regular meeting rhythm:
- Desire to set and fix key dates well in advance for both regular and special council meetings.
- Preference to combine special and regular meetings on the same day for attendance ease.
- Suggested calendar: "Special" events and monthly workshops to supplement regular meeting calendar, with a focus on spring/summer for outdoor/family-friendly events.
- Need input from all council members to finalize dates and locations (both indoor and outdoor—rainbow beach, schools, churches).
- Plan to print and distribute full-year calendars with scheduled events.
- Coordination with District Meeting Calendar:
- Identify Q4 (October, November, December) locations (e.g., Rainbow Beach, South Chicago, libraries, etc.).
- Explore collaborations with other community spaces (e.g., South Shore Cultural Center).

Open Discussion & Other Business

Brenda Waters –

- Recap of successes and progress in council engagement since formation four years ago.

- Recognition of active, balanced participation of all council members.
- Noted areas for growth, especially regarding engaging new faces and sustaining active leadership.
- Need for continual creative approaches to community outreach as seasons change.

Updates

Gloria Jenkins - Nominating committee updates:

- Vacancies ongoing, with application collection and interviews scheduled for February-March.
- Annual and quarterly committee meeting schedules to be finalized.
- Discussion around avoiding scheduling conflicts.

Announcement of Next District Council Meeting

NEXT MEETING DATE: February 28, 2026

NEXT MEETING LOCATION: Hegewisch Library 3048 East 130th Street

District Council ended the meeting at: 1:21 pm