



# DISTRICT COUNCILS

COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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## District Council 007 – Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Type:** Regular

**Date:** January 21, 2026

**Time:** 6:05 PM

**Location:** Hamilton Park Fieldhouse  
515 W. 72nd Street, Chicago

**Facilitators:** Dion McGill, Teresa Chandler

**Absent:** Council Member Joseph

**Attendees:** COC members Dannette, Project Manager Julio, and one community member;  
no one from CPD attended.

### I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by the Chair.

**Present:**

- Dion McGill
- Teresa Chandler (Chair)

**Absent:**

- Council Member Joseph (community engagement focus)

A quorum was established.

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### II. Approval of Remote Attendance of Councilor

Council Member Joseph was noted as absent. No request for remote participation was presented.

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### III. Approval of Agenda

The standard agenda was reviewed. No amendments were proposed.

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#### **IV. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from the regular meetings held on November 19, 2025, and December 17, 2025, were reviewed.

- A motion was made and seconded to approve both sets of minutes.
  - **Vote:** Approved unanimously, with no additional discussion.
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#### **V. Public Comment**

Members of the public participated in discussions throughout the meeting consistent with public comment guidelines. No formal speaker list was recorded.

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#### **VI. Public Discussion on District Trends and Concerns**

##### **A. Council and Oversight Structure**

Council members provided an overview of the District Council's role and responsibilities, including:

- Establishment of District Councils under a 2021 city ordinance to enhance police accountability and community safety.
- Oversight by the **Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability (CCPSA)**.
- District Councils' role in local engagement, advocacy, and restorative justice efforts.
- Ongoing challenges with information sharing, restorative practice integration, and cross-district coordination.

##### **B. Community Engagement and Public Meetings**

Discussion emphasized the importance of public meetings as open forums for community input.

- Continued challenges with low attendance despite outreach efforts such as flyer distribution and participation in other community meetings.

### **C. Public Transit Safety and Mental Health**

Community members raised concerns regarding unsafe conditions on CTA trains and buses, including:

- Open drug use, smoking, and aggressive behavior.
- Concerns that recently released mental health patients are provided with CTA passes and use transit as shelter.
- The need for coordination with the Department of Health and Human Services to address safety and service gaps.

### **D. CARE (Crisis Assistance Response and Engagement) Teams**

Updates were provided on the rollout of CARE Teams:

- CARE Teams respond to behavioral and mental health crises via 911 dispatch.
- Limited operating hours (currently 10:00 AM–4:00 PM).
- Need for increased public awareness and collaboration with nonprofit service providers.

### **E. Community Meetings and Events Attended**

Council members shared summaries of recent engagements, including:

- Chicago Police Board and CCPSA meetings.
- Know Your Rights and Immigration Watch events.
- Town halls on gun accountability legislation (RIFL Act).
- Civic engagement and voter outreach events.
- Coalition training to enhance outreach strategies.

### **F. Immigration and Federal Enforcement Concerns**

Significant community concern was expressed regarding ICE activity:

- Increased fear among immigrant residents and families.
- Activation of Rapid Response Teams for outreach, translation, and neighborhood alerts.
- Emphasis on bilingual communication and cross-community collaboration.

### **G. Local Safety and Quality-of-Life Issues**

Residents raised concerns about:

- Buildings are affected by drug use, prostitution, and violence.
- Limited visible police presence.

- CPD was not present at this meeting; follow-up was noted. **Barriers to Community Participation**

Ongoing challenges were discussed, including:

- Difficulty engaging younger residents and re-entry populations.
  - Limited resources for outreach and resistance from some retail locations.
  - Desire for stronger aldermanic and city-level promotion of District Council meetings.
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## **VII. Reports from the Councilors**

Council members reported on recent outreach, meetings attended, and coordination efforts with community groups and citywide coalitions.

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## **VIII. Update from the Commission**

Updates related to CCPSA activities, special meetings, and policy discussions were shared.

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## **IX. Report from the Police District**

No police district report was provided due to CPD's absence. Questions and concerns were noted for follow-up at a future meeting.

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## **X. Hearings and Discussions**

The Council discussed:

1. Local public safety issues
  2. Local policing concerns, including visibility and response
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## **XI. Presentations**

No formal outside presentation was delivered during this meeting.

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## **XII. Final Actions**

No resolutions or formal votes were taken beyond approval of prior meeting minutes.

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## **XIII. Final Announcements and Adjournment**

The Council discussed upcoming engagement efforts and future meeting topics.  
The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM