

9TH DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Notice of Public Meeting Minutes

DC 009 will be holding a public meeting. Below are the details:

- Meeting Type: Regular
- Date: February 25, 2026
- Start Time: 6:36 PM
- End Time: 7:41 PM
- Location: Brighton Park Community Center, 4830 S. Western Ave.

District Council Member Name	Attendance
Chair: Carlos Sanchez	Present: X Remote: ☐ Absent: ☐
Community Engagement: Erin Vogel	Present: X Remote : ☐ Absent: ☐
Nominating Committee: Denise McBroom	Present: ☐ Remote : ☐ Absent: X
Quorum (2 out of 3 Members): Yes: X No: ☐	

Attendance	
# of attendees in person	34
# of attendees virtual	0
# of CPD attendees	3
CPD rank of attendees	CPT. Poppish & 2 officers

Agenda for the Public Meeting

Items on the agenda are subject to change. If you have questions regarding this agenda, please contact 312-742-8888.

I. Call to Order, Roll Call

The Council will begin the meeting and establish a quorum of at least two Councilors.

- **Carlos Sancehz and Erin Vogel Present Quorum met.**
- **Denise McBroom was attending Nominating Committee Meeting**

II. Approval of Remote Attendance of Councilor

If applicable, the Council will vote to allow the third Councilor to participate remotely after establishing a valid basis for the absence from the meeting.

- **Approval for January 2026 Meeting Minutes were approved**

III. Approval of Agenda

The Council may vote to approve the agenda. The Council may add or remove items. The Council cannot add new items to vote on. Even after deciding on the agenda, the Council may decide to add more items later on.

- **NA**

District Council Public Meeting Notice & Agenda, continued

IV. Approvals of Past Minutes

The Council will vote on past meeting minutes.

Date of Minutes	Approved by
January 28, 2026	Chair: Y Nominator: ☐ Community Engagement: Y
	Chair: ☐ Nominator: ☐ Community Engagement: ☐
	Chair: ☐ Nominator: ☐ Community Engagement: ☐

V. Public Comment

- **10 community Members made Public Comment**

VI. Public Discussion on Trends and Concerns in the District

The Council will facilitate a discussion with the room on the most prevalent trends and concerns in the district, share their own observations from community engagement, and record a summary for the minutes.

Key Points from Community Speakers

- **Longtime local residents** emphasized deep roots in Brighton Park, including decades of involvement in schools, sports, and community organizations.
- **Strong support for the new safety infrastructure**, with speakers citing years of discussion and planning behind the project.
- **Residents have witnessed consistent dangerous driving** on Archer—speeding, running red lights, nighttime racing, and frequent crashes involving pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists.
- **Community members reported multiple fatalities** over the years and stressed that 14 deaths is unacceptable for any neighborhood.
- **Speakers asked for patience** as construction is incomplete and other unrelated projects on Archer are adding to temporary congestion.
- **Many emphasized that safety improvements benefit everyone**—not only cyclists but also drivers, children, elders, transit users, and people walking.
- **Comparisons to past neighborhood changes**, such as the Orange Line, were used to show that controversial projects can become major community assets over time.
- **Supporters called out misinformation** being spread by a small but vocal group opposing the redesign.
- **Residents described hopes for safer, more walkable, and more vibrant business corridors**, with future opportunities such as bike racks, better foot traffic, and calmer streets.

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- **Morgan (McKinley Park Development Council)**

- Speaks on behalf of a neighborhood group focused on building strong, safe, and thriving communities.
- Supports traffic safety improvements and emphasizes that *all* residents deserve safe, reliable transportation between neighborhoods.
- Notes that students from Kelly High School have expressed support for the changes.
- Says McKinley Park has serious traffic safety problems; this project could set a precedent for similar improvements elsewhere.
- Describes severe past incidents: cars crashing into pedestrians, bikes, businesses, and even buildings.
- Highlights financial impacts of unsafe streets on small businesses (damage, lost revenue).
- States businesses often *want* bike lanes because they bring foot traffic and act as buffers.
- Gives an example of a business that moved to a more pedestrian-friendly street and saw improvement.
- Notes nearly a decade of community feedback asking for safer walking and biking conditions.
- Believes comprehensive safety infrastructure benefits everyone: drivers, cyclists, pedestrians, transit users, and “even the guy on a unicycle.”
- Hopes the project creates a local model for accessible transportation and safer mobility.
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- **Kate (McKinley Park resident & frequent Brighton Park visitor)**

- Shares two stories illustrating why painted bike lanes are insufficient.
- Example 1: While driving, a car whipped around traffic using the painted bike lane—an extremely dangerous maneuver.
- Example 2: Witnessed a pedestrian fatality caused by a truck while she was biking; helped perform CPR.
- States the issue is not emergency response time, but the *lack of infrastructure* to prevent these crashes.
- Emphasizes that pedestrians and cyclists operate at “human scale,” making visibility and safety better.
- Argues that safer, more active streets strengthen community life (“active streets are safe streets”).
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District Council Public Meeting Notice & Agenda, continued

- **Teresa (Lifelong Brighton Park resident)**

- Lives right off Archer and also attended Kelly High School.
- Expresses frustration about the **timing** of the project:
 - o Rolled out right before winter.
 - o Made congestion worse for drivers and pedestrians.
- Notes her commute has lengthened by 10–15 minutes.
- Critiques outreach:
 - o Feels working residents weren't adequately informed or engaged.
 - o Notices a gap between highly engaged community members and everyday residents with long work hours.
- Calls for better communication and more inclusive outreach.
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- **Reuben**

- Raises concerns about **emergency response delays**, citing:
 - o Instances where emergency vehicles could not maneuver due to barriers.
 - o A semi blocking an intersection because it couldn't pull aside.
 - o Police officers needing to exit vehicles and run to incidents.
- Notes rising traffic volumes due to rail yards and Amazon facilities.
- Believes planters/barriers make breakdowns and blockages worse.
- Argues that many other safety issues (e.g., potholes, ADA issues) deserve investment.
- Feels crashes from bikes are fewer compared to other causes.
- Expresses frustration about conflict within the community and wants a more unified approach.
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- **Joey**

- Strongly opposes the project; calls it poorly designed at every level.
- Questions financial priorities, pointing to homelessness, CHA waitlists, and housing shortages.
- Points to ridership and traffic data:
 - o 15,000–20,000 cars per day on Archer.

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- o 8,200+ weekday CTA riders.
 - o Argues that these numbers far exceed the number of cyclists.
- Concerned about rising taxes and rent pressures; believes the project misallocates funds.
- States there is an organized pro-infrastructure group and urges others to oppose the project.
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• **Dixon (Archer Heights resident)**

- Walks, bikes, and drives in the neighborhood; thanks Council for hosting the meeting.
- Acknowledges community concerns about emergency access but notes ambulances already navigate other major corridors with heavy traffic.
- Encourages good-faith input from OEMC, CPD, and CFD.
- Wants honest evaluation once construction is complete.
- Reminds the community how dangerous Archer was *before* the project (speeding, weaving, unsafe turning).
- Emphasizes benefits: safer for pedestrians, cyclists, people with strollers/wheelchairs, and improved public safety overall.
- States he is a driver too and wants driving to remain safe and efficient—but not the *only* safe mode of transportation.
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• **Rebecca (McKinley Park resident & daily commuter)**

- Commutes by transit and by bike; biking helps manage health needs like diabetes.
- Colleagues express concern for her safety when biking on Archer—conditions have historically been dangerous.
- Feels safer now with new infrastructure, though improvements still needed:
 - o Stop cars from parking in bike lanes.
 - o Continue repaving to reduce swerving around potholes.
- Reports fewer fender-benders observed recently.
- Excited about ongoing safety improvements and believes they benefit the whole community.

VII. Reports from the Councilors

Each Councilor will provide an update. Councilors will discuss their updates with themselves and meeting attendees. The Council may or may not have time limits for these updates depending on what they previously agreed upon.

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- **Erin Gave updates on her Cafer Con Conchas last month as well as community events she has participated in and her support as a southside first response member.**
- **Erin also gave updates for Denise on Nominating committee.**

VIII. Update from the Commission

The Council may provide and discuss updates received from the Commission. If the Council has not received updates from the Commission, the Council will announce it.

- **NA**

IX. Report from the Police District

The Council may call upon local District Command staff from the Chicago Police Department to provide updates from the last month. The Council may use this time to ask the District Command representative questions on behalf of the community.

- **NA**

X. Hearings and Discussions

The Council will discuss any topics it decides to prioritize at the meeting.

- 1.
- 2.

XI. Presentations

If the Council has arranged for a presentation from an outside organization, the Council will recognize the outside speaker to present to the community.

- **Safe Streets Presentations by Erin Vogel**

XII. Final Actions, Resolutions, Recommendations

The Council will discuss items for voting. This may include resolutions calling upon the Commission, the Chicago Police Department, City Council, the Mayor's Office, or others to take action on a matter. Councilors may also share individual recommendations that are not formal, final actions of the Council. Individual recommendations do not require votes, and they may or may not be listed ahead of time.

XIII. Final Announcements and Adjournment

The Council will make final announcements, such as announcements about upcoming Council events and meetings, and then close the meeting.

- Next Meeting Date: **March 25, 2026**
- Next Meeting Time: **6:30pm**
- Location: **Davis Square Park 4430 S. Marshfield, 60609**

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