11TH DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITY COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

11th District Council Public Meeting Minutes

- Meeting Type: Regular
- Date: September 21, 2026
- Time: 5:30 PM
- Location: Legler Regional Library (115 S. Pulaski Rd)

Agenda for the Public Meeting

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

I. Call to Order, Roll Call

Meeting called to order at **6:12 PM**

Roll call conducted

Quorum established (Councilor Edwards, Councilor Woodards, and Councilor Ramson present)

II. Approval of Remote Attendance of Councilor

No remote attendance

III. Approval of Agenda

Agenda reviewed by Council

Motion made and seconded

Agenda approved as presented

IV. Approvals of Past Minutes

Review of **August 24, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve minutes by Councilor Ramson, second by Councilor Woodards.

Minutes were approved.

V. Public Comment

- **Mary Randolph** gave public comment about people using drugs and hanging around the side of the library, especially near **Monroe** and previously **Wilcox**.
- She said the activity is upsetting because children come to the library, may attend programs there, and should not have to see people smoking, dealing, or loitering near the building.
- She emphasized that the problem becomes worse after the library closes and asked what the council, police, and others can do to address it.
- She also said the issue affects children's sense of safety and that the council's leadership should work together on a solution.
- Mary raised a separate issue about **911 calls not being answered** after an incident near **Congress and Pulaski** where people were fighting.

- **Omega** reported arriving at **5:00 PM** and seeing people smoking on the stairs and said there had been a transaction on the stairs at the previous meeting.
- The group discussed whether the area is legally public space and whether the police can simply move people along. The explanation given was that public-property rules and civil-rights concerns limit what police can do without going through legal process.

VI. Public Discussion on Trends and Concerns in the District
  - Loitering on the steps and sides of Legler Library.
  - Quality of life in the district.

VII. Reports from the Councilors

- The group discussed an upcoming **CCPSA public meeting on September 24** at **DePaul College Prep**, with a special subject-matter hearing on **officer wellness and its impact on policing.**
- Vacant Commission seat. Looking for youth candidate (18-24) from the north side of the city.

VIII. Update from the Commission
No updates.

IX. Report from the Police District

1. **No CPD officers present.**

X. Hearings and Discussions

Open-Air Drug Activity Near the Library

- The central discussion concerned people hanging out, smoking, and allegedly selling drugs on and near the library steps and perimeter.
- Participants repeatedly described the concern as both a **drug issue** and a **quality-of-life issue** because children, families, and seniors use the library and surrounding public spaces.
- Several people said the issue is not just visibility from a distance, but that activity is happening directly on the stairs and immediately outside the entrance.

Legal Limits, Civil Rights, and Enforcement Challenges

- District Council Chair explained that police cannot simply move people from public property without risking civil-rights violations and legal challenges.
- They referenced the **ACLU**, stop-and-frisk concerns, and the legal constraints around searches, seizure, and arrest.
- The conversation emphasized that the legal framework often prioritizes avoiding harm from over-enforcement, even if the result is that visible disorder remains in place.
- Participants also discussed marijuana-law changes, intent-to-distribute thresholds, and how those changes can complicate enforcement against dealers or users.
- The general point repeated was that the laws exist but enforcing them is difficult and often uneven.

Organizing, Research, and Community Pressure

- One participant said this is an "organizing question" and suggested researching who controls the library grounds and who sits on the library board or Chicago Public Library Board.
- They proposed identifying points of pressure, contacting the right decision-makers, and using organized civic action rather than only relying on enforcement.
- Another participant noted that people organize for laws they want, but often do not fully consider unintended consequences of the policies they create.

XI. Presentations
No presenter

XII. Final Actions
No votes.

XIII. Final Announcements and Adjournment
The Meeting adjourned at 7:06 PM.
Next meeting: October 19, 2026